

Beitang, or the North Cathedral, is one of the four Catholic churches in Beijing.

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Zeng Jun fulfills his urban dream as a plumber installing water heaters in Beijing.

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Liu splashes Beijing onto Opera canvas.

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Beijing Builds Olympic Office

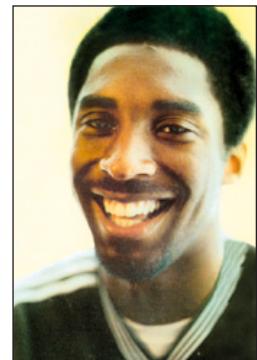
A preparatory office of the organizing committee for the 29th Olympic Games was set up here on August 8, kicking off the seven-year-long preparation for the 2008 Games.

Beijing Vice Mayor Liu Jingmin, who heads the office, listed three tasks:

The office will work out a general framework of the 2008 Olympics, lay out a blueprint on how to form an organizing committee, and seek out advice both from home and abroad, to be adopted in the committee's plan for the Olympics.

Liu said Beijing will set up the committee in five months as required by the International Olympic Committee. (Xinhuanet)

The Kobe Cometh



By Yu Lixian

The most-famous NBA star to ever come to China should arrive here in Beijing today. Kobe Bryant will coach young players and promote his corporate sponsor at the Adidas Beijing Street Basketball Matches at Millennium Monument.

Famed for his slashing speed, light touch and aerial majesty, Bryant is recognized as the best player to emerge from the 17-year-old Adidas Basketball Camp in the USA, at which he was voted MVP in 1995.

The Adidas Beijing Street Basketball Match program is scheduled to enlist 300 teams. The winning team of the Beijing finals will be qualified to play the Asian-Pacific Finals on behalf of China. The young talent involved will gain opportunities to participate in next year's training camp activity.

Jing and the Giant Peach

By Zhao Pu

Picking up his prize, Wang Jing declared the 738-gram monster a bargain at 1,088 yuan.

"As a matter of fact," said Beijing's own answer to Richard Branson, "We are spending little money and doing a great thing."

Wang, CEO of Beijing Jingnan Agricultural & Sideline Products Wholesale, can now place the peach in the same bargain basement alongside the 28-kilogram watermelon he bought two months ago for 13,200 yuan.

He had first contacted the Fruits Administrative Office of Pinggu County last week after getting word of the freak fruit bonanza available at the Second Green Capital Pinggu Excellent Peach Fair in Wangfujing.

Wang wasn't so much paying for the peach bite as the sound bite. The beardless promoter wanted to get something off his chest in front of some friends with cameras. He dubbed it "excellence consciousness" and it loses little in translation.

As overseer of an agricultural product wholesale center Wang explained, he knows all about fruit and the importance of quality in fruit. And so on.

Agricultural product sellers and buyers come to him, Wang said, desperate to cooperate. Why? He asked assembled television and newspaper people. Because they want to know the secrets of his center's strict quality control system, he said. And so on.

"It's just like writing your own article doing this, and the readers are the public hopefully," he said. "You couldn't buy this kind of publicity for 10 thousand RMB." Further more fructifying purchases are planned for future fairs. Expect to see "Excellence Consciousness" appearing soon in a stall near you. Wash and peel before swallowing.



Wang Jing and chum.

Photo by Chen Shuyi

EDITOR: LIU FENG XIA LEI DESIGNER: PANG LEI



Zeng Jun fulfills his urban dream as a plumber installing water heaters in Beijing.

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Liu splashes Beijing onto Opera canvas.

Page 12



The scene of the disaster.

Xinhua photo

State Council Probes Catastrophe



Mine manager Li Dongming is questioned.

The State Council will dispatch an investigation team to Guangxi, south China, to find out the real cause of the Nandan mining disaster.

Two tin mines in Nandan County of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region flooded on the early morning of July 17, leaving 81 miners missing, presumed dead. The accident was not reported in Chinese media for two weeks and the death toll remains uncertain.

State Economic and Trade Commission leader Li Rongrong announced on Tuesday that the State Council group will conduct a "thorough probe". A preliminary investigation sent by

central government on Saturday, he said, has unearthed involvement of "organized criminal gangs".

Four Nandan County officials have so far been found culpable. The regional party committee dismissed Wan Ruizhong, secretary of the Nandan County Party Committee, and deputy secretaries Tang Yusheng and Mo Zhuanglong.

The regional government also suspended Tang as county head. His deputy Wei Xueguang was suspended.

Cao Bochun, head of the regional party committee, called for "severe punishment".

(by the staff)

Wolves, Pumas, Bears and Baboons Beckon at Beijing Wildlife Park

By Shan Jinliang

Claiming to be the first of its kind in the country, Beijing Wildlife Park opened on Wednesday.

The 240-hectare Daxing county park in Yufa town, about 60 kilometers south of Beijing, has three walking areas, with the tamer animals allowed to approach visitors.

In each zone, a park ranger will monitor and guard park guests. They will also protect the wolves, pumas, bears, baboons and llamas, making sure no one feeds or hurts them, according to Xu Yang, park vice-manager. Visitor volume will be closely watched to prevent overcrowding or contamination of the environment. Other details were released to journalists suggesting the park take its wildlife duties more seriously than



Safari seekers should head for southern suburbs.

Photo by Gloom

say a certain anonymous zoo located in Xizhimen.

Giraffes will feed from tall, funnel-shaped fodder containers to prevent neck injuries that commonly occur in zoos where animals must crouch for their food.

When temperatures fall below 5 centigrade in winter, Xu pledged the tropical animals would be moved to air-conditioned or central heating-equipped rooms.

Tigers will also reside in the park's undulating hills, where Chinese folklore's 'kings of the forest' like to camouflage themselves with tall weeds and shrubs.

Carnivorous animals will be well fed, said Xu. On the whole, this will ensure the animals live together in peace and harmony, a local guide said.

In the unlikely event of a fight breaking out, a tamer will separate the animals, the guide added. That's surely worth the 80-yuan admission price alone.

Outside Investors Get Beijing Residence Status

By Xu Renjie / Wang Yanyan

Chinese outside Beijing who come here to make investments and run private enterprises now can be registered permanent residents.

On August 4, the Regulation on Promoting Economic Development of the Private Sector was passed by the 11th Standing Committee of the National Peo-

ple's Congress. The 21st rule states that Beijing encourages privately owned industries and people outside the city to invest here. The quota limits on becoming a Beijing resident must not restrict those who run enterprises contributing greatly to Beijing; nor those who run businesses in partnership or who have been corporation representatives for a long time. Spouses and one under-aged child will

also be included. All of the above people are allowed to become permanent Beijing residents.

A senior official on the Beijing Law Committee of the National People's Congress says that the rule has a strong appeal for investors outside Beijing. It is also an effective way to attract them to stimulate the development of Beijing's private sector. The rule only sets out the

principals, but authorizes details and a complete set of regulations for city district governments.

Furthermore, the rule will be a great stimulant for finance, credit, insurance services, self-running imports and exports for private enterprises and industries promoting healthy development of the private sector. This rule will also guarantee their legal rights.



Photo by Liu Yu

Newly Made National Emblem

By Shan Jinliang

A newly made steel emblem replaced the 42-year-old wooden national emblem on the east gate of the Great Hall of the People on 3rd August. The frame of the former wooden emblem has

been seriously damaged by dozens of years of wind and rain erosion, whereas the new one with stainless steel as its framework has an exterior made of copper and aluminum alloy. The new emblem is erosion proof and will be easier to protect.

China Prepares for Turkish Hazelnuts

By Wang Yanyan / Zhou Song

Turkish hazelnuts enjoy great prestige at home and abroad, but are as yet unknown in China. Thus, after 30 years of diplomatic relations between China and Turkey, Emin Haluk Ayhan, the Deputy Undersecretary of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Turkey, has led a delegation to China. The two sides have been negotiating on introducing Turkish Hazelnuts into the Chinese market.

Mr. Ayhan told Beijing Today that he is very confident of the high quality and taste of Turkish hazelnuts.

The Republic of Turkey is located between Europe and Asia, surrounded by the Black Sea, Sea of Marmara Denizi, and Aegean Sea. The unique climate contributes to the hazelnuts' outstanding

quality. Ayhan also says that the Turkish government uses many modern techniques in order to maintain their high quality and guarantee their hygiene. The Turkish hazelnuts industry produces around 78% of the output of all nations. Therefore, it is one of the main industries in Turkey, and even determines the global market price of hazelnuts. In addition, Mr. Ayhan said they had done some research on Chinese tastes before they came to China. They will provide different hazelnuts according to the research results.

Furthermore, they intend to invest more than one million US Dollars on advertisement, such as television, posters on the underground and other means of public transportation, road signs, newspapers and so on. When asked why they chose such specific means to advertise, he said they wanted it to be a kind of ceremony. When people talk about Turkish hazelnuts, they also think of Turkey. In order to distinguish Turkish hazelnuts from those of other nations, they name their hazelnuts Wei Zhenguo. It is estimated that the market price for Turkish hazelnuts will be around 66 yuan (8 US Dollars) a kilogram.

Facing competition from foreign goods, the reactions of Chinese food companies are different. When interviewed, some refused to say anything with the excuse of not revealing commercial secrets, whereas, others are optimistic about the future Chinese hazelnut market.



Luxurious Turkish hazelnuts will soon whet customers' palates.

Photo by Zhuang Jian

CPC Punishes Corrupt Officials

The Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has called for severe punishments on party officials who violate party discipline and the law.

In a circular issued on August 6, the Organization Department publicized three party discipline violation cases.

Gan Weiren, former deputy secretary general of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region government, offered 270,000 yuan (about \$32,000) to Cheng Kejie, former chairman of the Guangxi regional government via Li Ping, mistress of Cheng.

Gan Weiren was expelled from the party in April 2000, and sentenced to four years and six months' imprisonment for offering bribes in November 2000.

Liu Xiutian, former secretary of the CPC Pingshan County Party Committee, Hebei province, took bribes valued at 416,400 yuan (\$50,000) to help promote others as officials while holding the post.

Liu was expelled from the Party in September 2000, and the case is now being handled by the local judicial department.

Jiang Jianzhong, deputy head of Jixian County, Shanxi Province, gave 39 deputies in the local People's Congress 500 yuan (\$60) each to ask them to vote for him as head of the county. Jiang was expelled from the Party, and the local judicial department is now handling his case. (Xinhuanet)

Beijing's Phone Applications Soar

China's scrapping of telephone installation fees on July 1 has resulted in an unprecedented soaring of phone applications in Beijing, sources at Beijing Telecom said on August 8. The company received nearly 130,000 applications in July, compared with 30,000 in an ordinary month. The charge for installation fees over the past two decades has helped China build up one of the world's largest and most advanced telecommunications networks. But, with the facilities in place, it has come under fierce criticism from the public. According to company sources, all applications are completed within 10 days, much shorter than the one month deadline promised by the firm. Company officials also claimed that there has been no apparent rise in complaints from customers regarding installation time or quality of service. The authorities announced that those who had paid the installation fee before 1st, July, but had not had their phones installed by that date will get their money back. (Xinhuanet)

Graves Only for Rent Not for Sale

By Shan Jinliang

Anyone who speculates in grave sales from August 5 will be punished. It is stipulated by the newly passed Regulations on Funeral and Interment of Beijing City that there should be "No speculating in graves or cinerary caskets. Graves or cinerary caskets of cemeteries should be rented with cremating certificates or other legal ones. The renting of longevity graves (refer to reserved graves before one dies) is prohibited. Renters are not to transfer graves or cinerary caskets." It is the first regulation made on graveyard speculation in the city. The regulation also states, "The longest cycle for grave use and bone ash caskets can only be 20 years, which can be re-rented on expiry."

Farm Markets to Move Outside 3rd Ring Road

By Duan Zhimin / Wang Yanyan

Large-scale markets of farm produce will all withdraw from the 3rd Ring Road from August 7. At present, the reconstruction program is being undertaken by Beijing Planning Bureau, mandated by Beijing Business Committee. Due to Beijing's success in the 2008 Olympic Bid, food markets in communities will also be progressively removed. Supermarkets and convenience shops will replace them. Zhang Qiubai from Beijing Business Committee says that Dazhongsi, Yuegezhuang and Sidaokou markets play a vital role in Beijing's daily life, bringing conveniences to local people. On the other hand, they bring great pressure to the traffic. Also the dirty environment is strongly against the

idea of Beijing's Green Olympics. Therefore, Beijing Business Committee has decided to remove old markets of farm produce and rebuild them on the 4th Ring Road. Large-scale professional markets of industrial produce and raw materials, exchange markets of second-hand goods and car markets will form the new business sites on the 4th Ring Road.

Zhang also says that shopping malls and supermarkets will manage more fresh food in order to fill the gaps created by the removal of farm produce markets.

Photo by Zhuang Jian



Torrential Rain Hits Shanghai

Unexpectedly heavy rain hit this metropolis in the east of China on Monday, submerging 100 roads and over 30,000 residential houses. The traffic in the downtown area was completely paralyzed as the 14-hour downpour, beginning at 4 p.m. on Sunday,

swamped many major roads such as Nanjing Road, Huaihai Road and Hengshan Road. As the city's drainage capacity is only 30 mm per hour, and the torrential rain did not let up, puddles as deep as 40 cm continued to rise. (Xinhuanet)

Photo by Fan Jun



Langchao GM Sun Peishu

Gambling on PC Servers

IT giant Langchao to invest 2 billion yuan

By Jason Young

On August 6, Langchao Group announced it would borrow 2 billion yuan from China Industrial Bank on Research and Development (R&D) and producing PC servers. It is the biggest investment in the world of Chinese IT.

At present Langchao takes the third position after IBM and HP, and possesses 14.2% of the market share. In 2000 over 160,000 PC servers were sold out at a total value of \$700 million. Langchao produced China's first PC servers in 1993 and broke the monopoly from foreign PC server providers. From then on Langchao began to cooperate with Intel and made standard servers for customers.

Compared with China's largest PC group Legend, Langchao was a state-owned company in Shandong and has a history of over 30 years. In the 1990s, it began to shift its business to the field of IT and has made rapid progress. Earlier this year, Langchao moved its headquarters from Shandong to Beijing to be closer to research institutes and universities. And then it changed members of the board. Now Langchao GM is 40-year-old Sun Peishu. Because Langchao personal computers and other products cannot compete with PC giants Legend and Founder, it stresses its merit PC servers.

Now IBM is the biggest server producer in China. Langchao hopes to surpass it in 3 years. We do not know whether 2 billion yuan is enough or not. Langchao likes to gamble.

Sinopec in Sluggish Debut

By Edwin Chan

The much anticipated debut of Sinopec Corp. shares in China's biggest initial public offering on Wednesday ran smack into the quagmire of poor sentiment that has sucked domestic markets down for weeks.

Sinopec A shares ended the day at 4.36, up 3.32 percent, falling short of analyst expectations and hovering not far above their offer price of 4.22 yuan -- a disappointing performance given that Chinese IPOs typically skyrocket on their debut. Sinopec shares rose nine percent to 4.60 yuan at the opening and hit an intraday high of 4.70 yuan, but the market malaise quickly began to weigh.

A shares markets, off-limits to foreigners, are under pressure from a crackdown on illicit use of bank funds for stock investment and the rapid expansion of the markets, including Sinopec's own massive float. The Shanghai domestic A share index ended down 0.50 percent on Wednesday. The Shanghai bourse has shed 15.1 percent since peaking at a year high close on June 13.

Domestic A shares, off-limits to foreign investors, typically double or triple on their debut due to strong interest in new issues among China's speculative punters. But the retail portion, 55% of Sinopec's monster \$1.43 billion domestic share offer, was seen scaling less lofty peaks given the large float and the broad market downturn.

By Yang Xiao

The board of Yin Guangxia Industry (SZSE: 0557) called for an extraordinary meeting for emergency measures on the published article of *Trap of Yin Guangxia*. The company promised to publish notices on August 7 and the share has been suspended for a day and a half since August 6.

The article *Trap of Yin Guangxia* says that most of the annual achievements in 1999 and 2000 for the company were fabricated. The article quoted experts' inference and some investigation, and questioned the unbelievable profitability of the company's profit-making project. The article commented that the huge profit released by the company within the past two years was merely a fraud.

Shock and apology

At an interview, Zhang Jisheng, Chairman of the board of the company said that he was surprised and shocked on reading the article. In order to prevent abnormal changes of the share price and to protect the interest of the investors, the board applied to Shenzhen Stock Exchange for an emergency suspending of the share on August 2. The board informed all the directors and supervisors the same night of the extraordinary meeting next day and promised to publish the notice on August 7.

This Tuesday the board of Guangxia published the notice. It confirmed that it fabricated product outputs, quantity of exports and so on. It deeply apologized to the shareholders and media. It expressed that it would investigate the matter as soon as possible. The watchdog CSRC dispatched an investigation group to Tianjin on August 4. CSRC will definitely punish the party concerned. The stock will remain closed for 30 days and will publish notices continuously.

The wrong audit leads to the trap

Zhong Tianqin Accounting Firm is a comparatively big company in Shenzhen. It has over 200 employees and made the audit of the annual report from 1999 to 2001 for Yin Guangxia. Liu Jiarong is the leading partner who plays the key role in the audit. If the profits in the annual reports are false, Liu Jiarong will be the first to know. But his mobile phone has been off from

Too good to be true

Monday morning till now.

Zhang Hanbin, an official of Shenzhen CPA Committee that is the watchdog for Shenzhen CPAs, has a decade experience in accounting. He is tired of accounting. He says, "Every auditor will face the hazard. He has to work under



Zhang Jisheng

Photos by Caijing

heavy pressure from customers. They want them to cheat, and auditors have to obey in order to make money. Many CPAs' reputation and career are ruined by these sorts of things." He said frauds in annual reports and other reports are ordinary things, "Zhong

Tianqin is a big company in Shenzhen. If it can cheat, then the mind boggles as to what those small accounting firms are up to."

Make up the trap

No one can deny that

Yin Guangxia is one of the best stocks these years. From the beginning date December 12 1999, the price was only 13.97 yuan. One year later on December 29 2000, the price rose to 37.99 yuan. It is the same price as 75.98 yuan on account of splitting one share by half. It rose over 440% and took the 2nd position of best profitable stock. The profit per share increased to 0.827 yuan after splitting the shares by half.

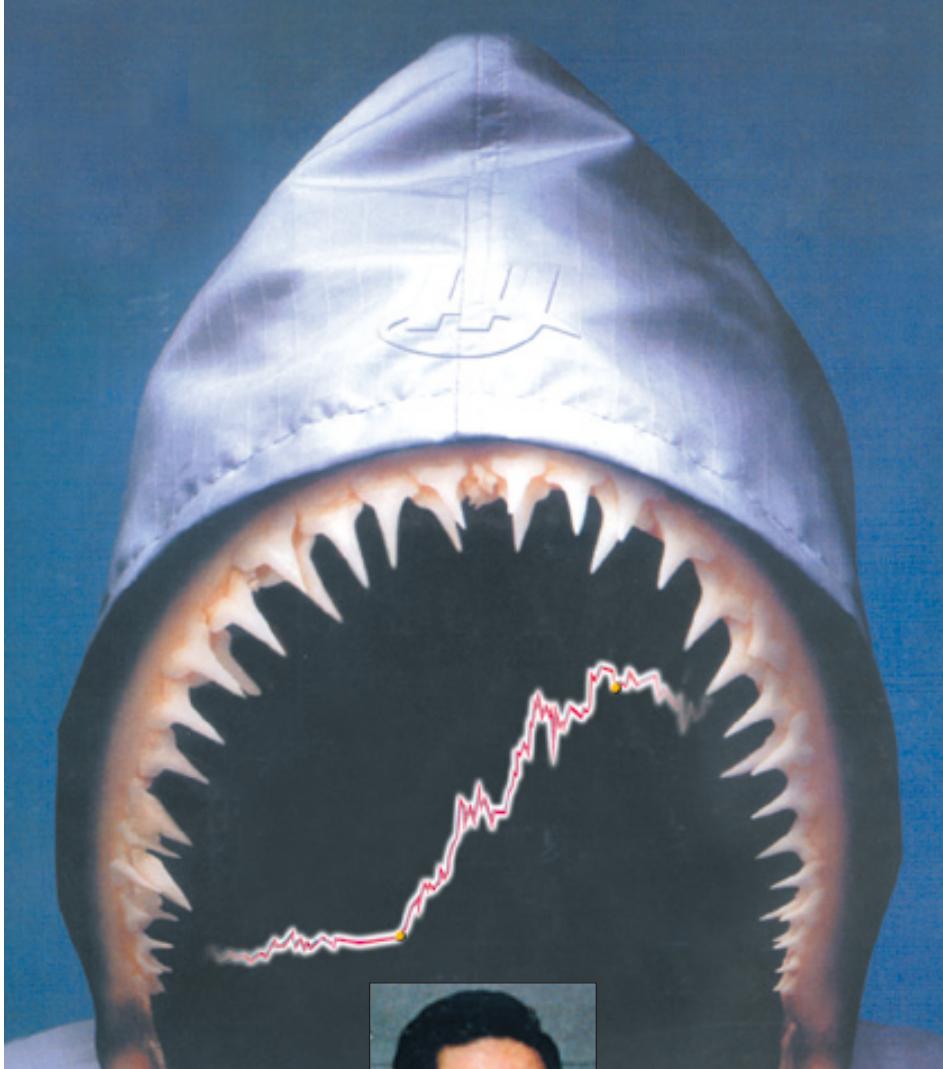
Why are a lot of shareholders in favor of buying the stock? The power comes from Yin Guangxia's well-arranged annual reports and its notices. Yin Guangxia announced it has signed a profitable contract with a German company named Fidelity Trading GmbH. It said that the company was over 130 years old, and planned to buy DM236 million of products from 1999 to 2000. The products are chemical products involved with extraction. Yin Guangxia built 2 factories in Ningxia autonomous region and Anhui province. In 2001 the boast becomes ridiculous. Yin Guangxia announced it got an order from Fidelity Trading, with a value of over 6 billion yuan.

Chemistry Experts pointed out the loopholes of Yin Guangxia's annual reports and announcements. First, factories do not have such great output capability; second, the price of the products is extremely high and the German company should not buy from it; third, the products from its factories could not manufacture the products listed in the annual reports and notices.

From customs, reporters began to know that Yin Guangxia's total export was only \$30,000 in spite of the millions of dollars claimed in the report. And the German company is a small inter-trade firm that only has 13 years history. Finally, the investments on building the factories in Ningxia and Anhui could never make any profits.

Therefore Yin Guangxia spent 2 years making a trap for all its minority shareholders.

The caption: Yin Guangxia Jaws gobble up 6 billion yuan in 2 years



Tsingtao Beer Shines under Peng Zuoyi's Legacy

with Beijing Yanjing Beer. It defeated Yanjing in becoming China's biggest brewery. Several years ago Tsingtao Beer only had a local brewery: the achievement must be credited to Peng Zuoyi.

This decision made Tsingtao Beer enter many previously inaccessible areas. In the past four years, Tsingtao bought 38 domestic breweries including Beijing's second biggest brewery Five Star Beer and Shanghai Carlsberg.

Many people changed their habits and started drinking Tsingtao unconsciously because packing was the same as the original brand, but the beer changed to Tsingtao.

It also set up sales branches or agents in more than 40 cities across the country. It averaged 25% of annual growth.

This year, under the influence of acquisition of Five Star Beer, Tsingtao Beer now shares Beijing's market, the biggest local one in China, its GM.

"The impact of Peng's loss is immeasurable, both in terms of his past strategies and future ideas,"

Yuan. "But both the company's structure and mechanisms are already fairly well built. Our business operations and production are proceeding as normal; our policies and strategy are

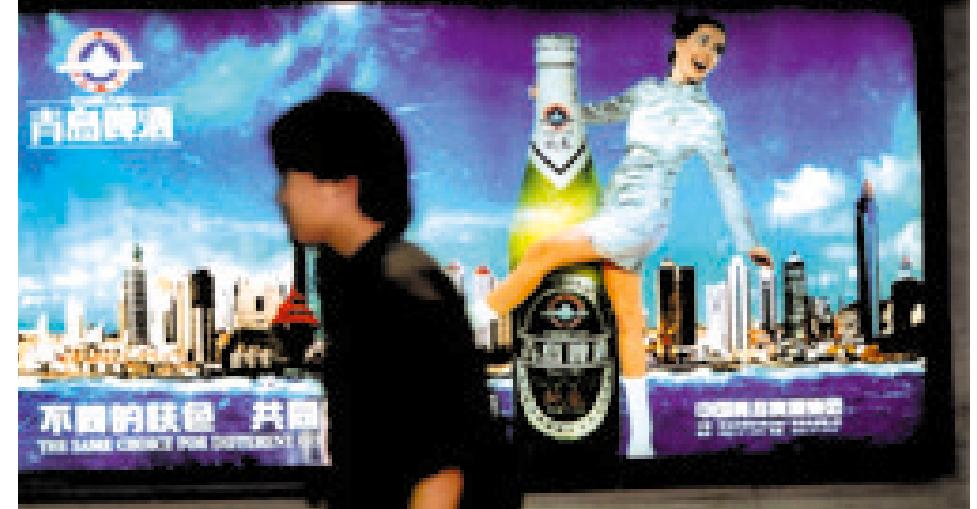
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Li Guirong has temporarily taken over as president,

and the company's board will decide the next GM as soon as possible.

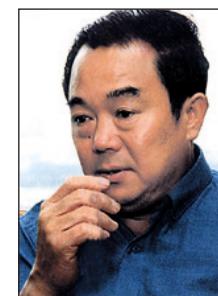
Tsingtao Brewery is Chi-

na's top beer producer on the H-share index. Its stock fell 3.41 percent to HK\$2.125 after fears that the company's expansion plans would be curtailed following the death.



Tsingtao Brewery's late General Manager Peng Zuoyi said the company produced 1.4-1.6 million tons of beer last year and will increase production to more than 2 million by 2003. "We must grasp this opportunity to move ourselves into the top 10 breweries in the world by 2003."

Photos by Chen Shui



By Jason Young

We really wanted to name Tsingtao Brewery GM

Peng Zuoyi as our Biz Star

for his aggressive investment

but on the evening of July 31, after a full day of meetings and interviews, Peng was found dead while swimming. He died of a heart attack.

Peng was selected by China Central Television as one of the 10 top businessmen of last year. He is widely recognized as the hero of the company's impressive performance since 1996, the year he became Tsingtao's helmsman.

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Chinese Domain Names Cause Quarrels

3721.net ready to sue CNNIC

By Jason Young

Profits from the Internet are so reliable that no company wants to miss any opportunities. On August 4, an Internet company named China Channel released news that it intends to promote a Chinese character Internet domain name by the name of China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC). It said that a user can type website addresses in Chinese characters if he cannot use English.

Profits from this software will come from companies who want to improve their business on the Internet.

This certainly threatens the interests of 3721.net. The company has been number one in this field of business since 1998. It promotes one kind of searching engine with over 100,000 people using the software daily. The domain names, which are sold to the companies, are making a profit of over 600,000

yuan per month. Certainly it is not big money, but is more reliable than ICPs and B2Cs.

3721.net are angry that China Channel and CNNIC are making unfair competition. They tell the users that they are the official standard and hint 3721's software is informal and to be eliminated. On August 5, 3721.net CEO Zhou Hongyi announced to reporters that they are ready to sue CNNIC for their cheating. Zhou says CNNIC

I protest!

is neither the government nor a watchdog to the Internet companies. It is just an unprofitable organization. So it shouldn't try to represent the government.

CNNIC is primarily an institute under the control of the China Academy of Science. It set up in 1997 and gained fame for organizing the top 10 website chart in China. It took charge of managing all Chinese domain names and earned a lot of money from charging for registration fees. It also got a lot of criticisms on its monopoly. The new software similar to that of 3721.net is another profitable business for CNNIC. Its spokesman Liu Zhijiang says it did not receive any information from 3721.net. He considers CNNIC does fair competition with 3721.net. He says it does not fear the ongoing lawsuit.

Restrictions on Foreign Trade Dismantled

JVs and private ventures have more access to import and export business

By Zhao Hongyi

China announced it has changed the former foreign trade application system to a registration system for macro management. This indicates that the country has dismantled further restrictions on foreign trade business in order to meet international standards practiced by all members of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation (MOFTEC) issued a circular July 13 announcing the notice. MOFTEC believes that this reform will stimulate foreign trade business by small and medium sized enterprises and private ones.

The regulation stipulates that China will abolish the original examination and approval system on the qualifications for handling import and export business. Instead, a system of registration and ratification will be installed. The new regulation has already been effective from the day the circular was issued.

The circular regulates that enterprises can apply for the right to handle foreign trade business provided they have registered capital of no less than 5 million yuan (US\$604,500). The original requirement for registered capital was a minimum of 8 million yuan (US\$967,300).

Manufacturing enterprises with a registered capital of 3 million yuan (US\$362,700) and above can apply for import and export rights for products used in their own manufacturing process.

Authorities shall decide whether or not to allow registration within 10 working days after receiving the application, according to the regulation.

This has been the third time MOFTEC eased its



limits on approving foreign trade rights for private firms. Prior to this, MOFTEC had twice relaxed the controls on approving import and export rights in 1999 and 2000. Some 1,000 private enterprises have been granted rights to do import and export business.

In addition, MOFTEC made the decision at a time when China's export volume has witnessed a sharp drop of 26 per cent in the first half of this year compared with the same period last year.

According to the People's Daily, China's academic field has expressed strong support to the step taken.

Gao Debu, an economics professor at the People's University of China, said the new move would break barriers, which used to discriminate against private firms and have been hindering their development.

The abandonment of the approval system will help create a fair and just environment for all firms, both State-owned and private, to compete with equal chances," Gao said.

Experts from the industrial and commercial section also give their welcome to the new step. An official from the Confederation of Commerce and Industry indicated the newly revised regulation would stimulate the private sector of the country's economy to expand in three ways.

First, it will promote the increase of import and export of the private economy.

Secondly, it will reduce the import costs of most of the raw materials for industrial production garments and food processing industries in particular.

Thirdly, it will provide a period of time for Chinese enterprises to get used of the conventional practice of international trade before the country's entering into WTO.

Six Textile Fabricating Bases to Be Established

By Yu Lixian

Over the next few years, the textile industry in Beijing will set up six big production bases. By then, Beijing's textile industry will improve its business strength comprehensively.

The six production bases are for high-grade shirts, western-style clothes, down jackets, cashmere sweaters, and woolen sweaters. These items will reflect the level of design and production of Beijing's textile industry. They will produce 21 million items of clothing annually from 2005, a sales volume of 1.3 billion yuan.

An official from the Beijing Textile Holding Co. Ltd. said that the six bases so far had only taken a tentative shape, and would be set up completely over several years. At that time, the textile industry will begin a new phase of development. It will not only improve the competitiveness in market, but also provide more products for the customers.

Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Soars

By Zhao Hongyi

According to the latest statistics from the municipal commission of foreign trade and economic cooperation, the city's foreign trade amounted US\$25.223 billion in the first half of this year.

This figure showed an increase of 13% over the same period of time of last year. More specifically, the city's exports reached US\$5.825 billion and imports amounted US\$19.398 billion.

Meantime, the number of foreign invested enterprises in the capital has increased to over 16,400, with a total contractual investment of US\$33.715 billion, nearly half of which are in the hi-tech industry.

In the first half of this year, 531 foreign invested ventures have been approved by the authorities, with a contracted investment of US\$1.59 billion, showing an increase of 6.2%. The actual volume of foreign investment utilized was US\$1.09 billion, with an increase by 18.8%.

The total amount of projects contracted abroad this year amounted US\$100 million.

128 Percent Surge in Technology Transfer Revenue

Beijing has become a national technology wholesale market with over 20 Chinese provinces and municipalities purchasing 10.5 billion yuan (1.28 billion U.S. dollars) worth of technology during the first half of 2001.

The figure represents a 128.4 percent increase over the same period of last year and exceeds the total amount for last year, Beijing Daily reported Wednesday.

High-tech companies in Beijing are the largest sellers of technological achievements, according to the report. Zhongguancun Science and Technology Park in the Chinese capital has been the most vibrant area in terms of technology transaction, it said.

(Xinhua)



The taxi transportation market of Beijing is seeing a rapid development with a huge potential to explore. The great potentiality of the market catches attentions from both domestic and foreign investors.

First Taxi JV to Be Set Up

By Yu Lixian

It was reported that the first Chinese and foreign joint-venture taxi company in Beijing was in the making. The application for setting up a company had been received by the Municipal Development Planning Commission. Currently, the relevant approval procedures are underway.

The Chinese part of the joint venture is Jinjian Taxi Company based in Beijing, with its foreign counterpart also a taxi management company from Singapore. It was estimated that the total investment would amount to US\$29.76 million. The foreign investment will put up some US\$24 million for 3,300 taxicabs.

According to China's relevant regulations, a Sino-foreign joint venture taxi company must buy its cars in China. The cars may be made in China or imported. For imported



Beijing's taxi transportation industry is under great pressure for better services and hardware equipment, especially after the city won the hosting right of the 2008 Olympics.

Photos by Zhuang Jian

cars, tariffs might be reduced or cancelled.

Beijing Jinjian Taxi Company is one of the famous branded taxi ventures in Beijing. It has 3,500 cabs of various models.

Its Singaporean counterpart is also a big company in the sphere of public transportation. It has 5,000 cabs, occupying 1/3 of the total number in Singapore. The company's dispatching system can handle 4,000 messages for taxicabs without any mistake within an hour.

Taxi is an important part of a city's public transportation system. Professionals hold that, as China is entering the WTO, the significance of the taxi industry's drawing foreign investment lies not only in capital, but more importantly in introducing the advanced managerial methods and operating beliefs of foreign countries. The latter might make Beijing's taxi industry reach a new level both in hardware and in service, thus satisfying the needs of the market.

Silicon Valley to Invest 15 Billion US Dollars in Beijing

By Yu Lixian

America's Silicon Valley would invest 15 billion US dollars in Beijing if there are suitable projects. Beijing Today learned from the Beijing-Silicon Valley High Technology Investment Conference 2001 held at the very beginning of this month in Beijing.

The investment conference, jointly sponsored by the People's Government of Beijing Municipality, the Management Commission of Zhongguancun Science Park, Beijing Commission of Science and Technology, and the

NBI Chinese American Computer Association of the United States, attracted some 400 Chinese and overseas specialists of venture investment, finance, and high-tech. All the people present focused on the same question: how large is the imagination space for cooperation between Beijing and Silicon Valley.

The NBI Chinese American Computer Association is the largest Chinese high-tech community in America. At present, NBI's corporate membership is 400 strong and growing. The total annual sales made by all members amount to 70 billion US dollars.

Mark Shir, the honorary board director and Chairman of NBI Chinese American Computer Association, held that the abandonment of the Chinese market would imply the abandonment of global markets. He hoped that the investment conference would take China to the world, and bring the world to China.

Before that, NBI has organized a number of similar conferences in other places of China. NBI, who focuses on investment promotion, hopes more suitable projects to be released for investment.



Wal-Mart is not the first, neither is it the last. Beijing is opening its arms to international wholesalers and retailers and invite them to stay in the capital of the most populous country in the world.

Photo provided by Wal-Mart

Greening Inner Mongolia for a Cleaner Beijing

By Chen Huiying

A group of 40 Beijingers will leave for Duolun county, Inner Mongolia, this Friday. During the trip, they will see the grassland that has been preserved by their donations to fight against the sand storms.

"Afforest Duolun's desert, return Beijing's clear sky." The donation scheme was initiated by Beijing Radio Station and the Beijing Afforestation Foundation two months ago. Till now, the project has raised 1.8 million yuan from thousands of citizens.

The donors visit Duolun in groups to plant trees. The team

leaving today is the second group. They will be glad to see that their donations have been spent on the cutting down on overgrazing by relocating herdsmen, closing off damaged areas and replanting grass.

Duolun County is 180 kilometers from Beijing. In recent years, Beijing has suffered greatly from the sand storms that originated there. Though it will take several years to see the effect, Beijingers are confident that their efforts will be rewarded by a clearer sky in 2008.

Info: A donation of 35 yuan, will preserve one mu (667 square meters) of grassland. For detail, call 65159051.

One Coffee 88 Yuan!



The most expensive coffee in Beijing?

Photo by Chen Shuyi

By Su Wei

"I can hardly believe it! An ordinary cup of coffee costs 88 yuan! That is twice as much as in a five star hotel!" Mao Yushi, an economist from the Tianze Economy Research Institute, is still indignant when talking about his experience in the cafe at the Capital Airport.

On the afternoon of July 27, Mao and three staff of the Yuanjing Dongfang Film & TV Media Company ordered four cups of coffee and three sandwiches in the cafe on the second floor of the Capital Airport. Upon leaving, they were shocked by the bill. We were charged more than 480 yuan, as each cup of coffee

cost 88 yuan. After arguing with the cafe and lodging our strong protest, we were allowed to leave with the payment of more than 230 yuan, including 38 yuan for each cup of coffee!"

Mao also pointed out that the cafe is just an ordinary one. "No one can say that having a drink in the cafe is a kind of special enjoyment. It is noisy and crowded. Most of the passengers are just there to take a rest or kill time while waiting for their flight."

According to Mao, the cafe just takes advantage of its special location. "There is nothing special in terms of its equipment and services. The only reason for its extortionate prices is that all the passengers are in a hurry to catch their planes or to go home. What's more, the passengers are from different areas and they just stay in the airport for a short time. Having recognized this, the cafe is exploiting the passengers in order to maximize their profits."

Such phenomenon is so common that many people simply accept it, feeling that it is not worth arguing whether it is right or not. Therefore, such cheating in the service industry is quite widespread.

Perhaps the strangest part of story, is that on learning of the incident involving Mao Yushi, the Management Department of the Capital Airport fined the cafe.

Their reason for imposing the fine is that the cafe violated regulations by its unauthorized reduction of Mao's bill!

Lots and Lots of Lottery Winners

By Chen Huiying

It was a happy time for the Beijing Welfare Lottery players. 7 tickets won the first prize of draw No. 42, on August 1, and about two thirds of all the ticket holders shared 6 tiers of prizes. Both are records in local lottery history.

The 7 lucky first prize winners each collected 76,490 yuan. The first prize is adjusted every draw, and the jackpot shared by the winners was only a fraction of the previous ones. The odds

of winning the highest prize are 1 out of 3.36 million. Theoretically, there will be a big winner when the pool reaches 6 or 7 million yuan, however this time, the pool was just 2.25 million yuan, and there were 7 winning tickets.

66.7% is the highest ever lottery winning rate in Beijing. About 50,000 players shared in a total 1,703,212 yuan prize money, and for the first time, the Beijing Welfare Lottery Center suffered a loss of 80,000 yuan.

Dough Sculpting Make Art, Not Bread!



a scene from *Journey to the West*

By Su Wei

Folk artist Tang Suguo says he has, "long been seeking a way to make dough figurines with a modern contemporary touch, in order to allow the folk art to be part of a broader spectrum of art!" An heir to a family of artisans, Tang's biggest wish is not only to broaden the general public's knowledge about dough figurines, but also to bring this special Chinese art form into the mainstream.

Tang, 68 years old, grew up in a family of artists. "My father taught me traditional painting and my mother taught me calligraphy when I was a child. At that time, making dough figurines was just a kind of entertainment, like making kites and shadow puppets." He says at first, he was not at all an "expert" in making dough figurines, so common a skill in the past that most handicraftsmen were capable of on the street, and some housewives were able to make them in the course of preparing meals. Now in some fairs during Spring Festival, people can still be found making dough figurines.

After graduating from high school, Tang followed in the footsteps of his father, working in the Beijing Arts and Crafts University. During his five years there, he modeled figurines inspired by literary figures from popular Chinese and foreign novels.

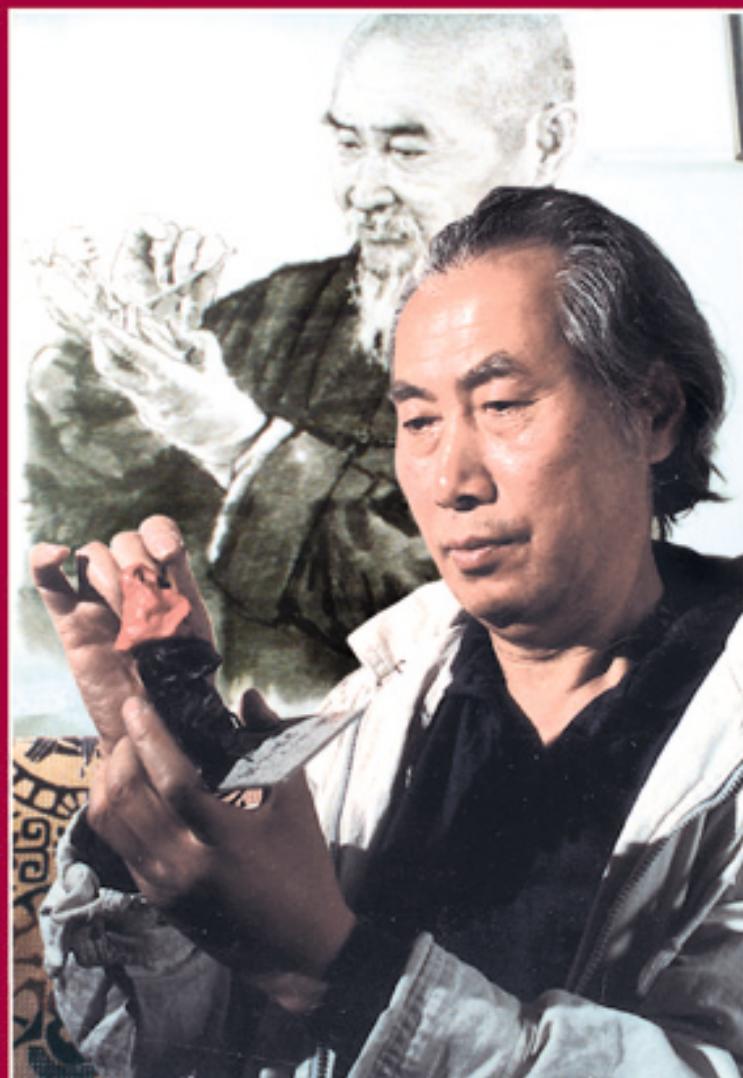
"I came to realize that simply following one's interests was not enough to become a master in arts. In those days I was given the opportunity to acquire a deeper understanding of the arts, and was influenced by numerous artists." He had a strong

desire to continue his artistic studies at university and in 1961, he fulfilled this dream, undertaking a six year systematic study at the Central Institute of Fine Arts with a major in western sculpture.

Tang has visited more than twenty countries and his exhibitions always attract large crowds. For his achievements, he was conferred the title "Master of Industrial Folk Art" by the

United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization in March 1996.

Tang has been seeking a true heir to carry on his skill in making dough figurines. Although he has many students both in China and overseas, he says it is not easy to find someone who not only loves this art, but has mastered a sufficient level of theoretical knowledge in the arts at the same time.



A family of folk artists, Tang Suguo works in front of a portrait of his father.

Photo by Ye Jinzhong

Transforming Xidan

By Chen Ying

A project to transform the outlook of Xidan business district got underway on August 1, and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The Xidan management committee says it took 9 months to design and modify the scheme. The four main aims are to harmonize the neon signs of buildings along streets, to replace the trees and install modern sculptures, to improve road signals

and facilities such as newspaper kiosks, to install automated equipment to regulate the traffic flow and increase electricity generation to more than 1600 kw for public use.

Red and yellow are the major colors in the project. Four groups of metropolitan sculptures will appear in the streets. 150 trees and bushes will take the place of 99 Chinese scholar trees more than 40 years old, and a fountain will be built at the front of the Xidan technology square.

Hearing, Seeing, and Feeling Sound!



An interactive sound-exploring exhibition sponsored by British Embassy and Chinese Science & Technology Museum appealed to many children on August 5. Various interactive installations, such as an ear trumpet, bucket radio and resonating bowl welcomed visitors to explore the science of sound.

(By Sun Ming)

Photo by Zhao Ting

NEWS IN BRIEF

By Sun Ming

★ On August 2, the Ministry of Health announced that by the end of 2002, all blood products used in hospitals should be tested for HIV.

★ To date, there have been no cases of dengue fever reported in Beijing. The responsible departments of quarantine and testing have already taken strict precautions against the infectious disease, which broke out recently in Thailand.

★ According to the Beijing Bureau of parks and landscape, by 2007, the area of green coverage in Beijing will amount to 45%, with 15 square meters of green per person.

★ People from other parts of China can obtain a residential permit for Beijing if they own a successful private enterprise, according to a new ordinance passed recently by the Standing Committee of the Beijing People's Congress.

★ According to the Beijing Public Security Bureau of Traffic Administration, hutongs, or alleys, in Beijing will become one-way, enabling one side to be used for parking.

★ Four universities in Macao were granted permission to recruit college students in Beijing this year. It is the first time for these universities to recruit students from Beijing.

Buyers of Counterfeit Diplomas Beware

By Sun Ming

Yan, from Inner Mongolia, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on August 3 for buying a counterfeit diploma. It is the first time in Beijing such a case has been decided according to criminal law.

On March 13, Yan bought a counterfeit diploma of Dongbei Financial University for 100 yuan from a street peddler. The two were caught by police just as they were haggling over the price.

Yan, who expected no more than a fine, didn't admit that he had violated criminal law. Even some people seated in the public gallery questioned the severity of the punishment.

According to an ordinance by the Supreme Court and the Supreme Procuratorate on July 3 this year, anyone knowingly buying a fake diploma will also be liable to criminal prosecution.

The peddler who sold the counterfeit diploma to Yan also received a sentence of six months imprisonment.

Lost Property in Taxies

By Code

Careless passengers are leaving behind an ever-increasing quantity of belongings in taxies nowadays. According to Beijing police, some 6.6 million yuan worth of property has been reported lost in taxies over the first half of this year.

Among the reported losses, there have been 105 instances of people reporting leaving over 10 thousand yuan in a cab. The largest sum reported lost was 300 thousand yuan.

Mobile phones are the belongings most frequently left behind by passengers, with 350 reported lost in the first half year.

Others items like laptop computers, cameras, video cameras, PDAs, ID cards, jewelry, also figure highly on the lost list.

Over 3.38 million yuan worth of belongings have been recovered by police, or half the amount reported lost, including 55 mobile phones, 25 cameras and 13 portable computers.

Police say that most of those reporting such losses are from out of town, or young people. They advise passengers to keep their belongings close at hand, ask for a receipt and pay attention to the name of the taxi company, and not to use mobile phones when getting out of the cab.

Appreciate Chinese Folk Art

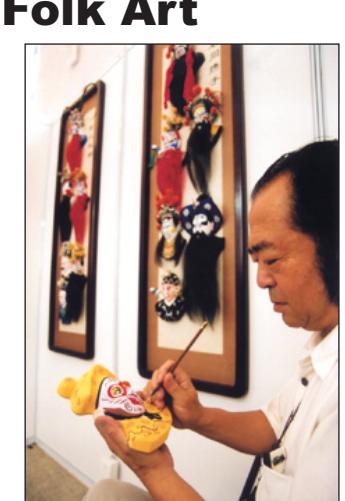


Photo by Zhuang Jian

The Second China International Folk Art Fair is being held from Aug. 7 to 12 at the Beijing Exhibition Center, 100 meters east of Beijing Zoo. Around 100 Chinese folk artists and organizations from across the nation are participating in this grand gathering, presenting a variety of skills and handicrafts such as walnut miniature, root carvings, dough modeling, Peking Opera masks, silk figures, paper cuttings.

(Ivy Zhang)

Where to Work?

Would You Leave Home for a Job?

By Gao Zi

In the employment market, one's "local registered permanent residence" is not as important a factor as it once was. Meanwhile, in order to promote development, many cities are taking measures to attract skilled workers and professionals from other places.

A recent survey conducted in Beijing and Shanghai reveals that most residents are prepared to work in other cities.

However there are differences in attitudes between the people of the two cities. According to the survey, 68% of Shanghai residents are willing to go to another city to work; 16% more than in Beijing (52%). 2% of Beijing residents didn't express an opinion, and the remaining 46% were opposed to relocating.

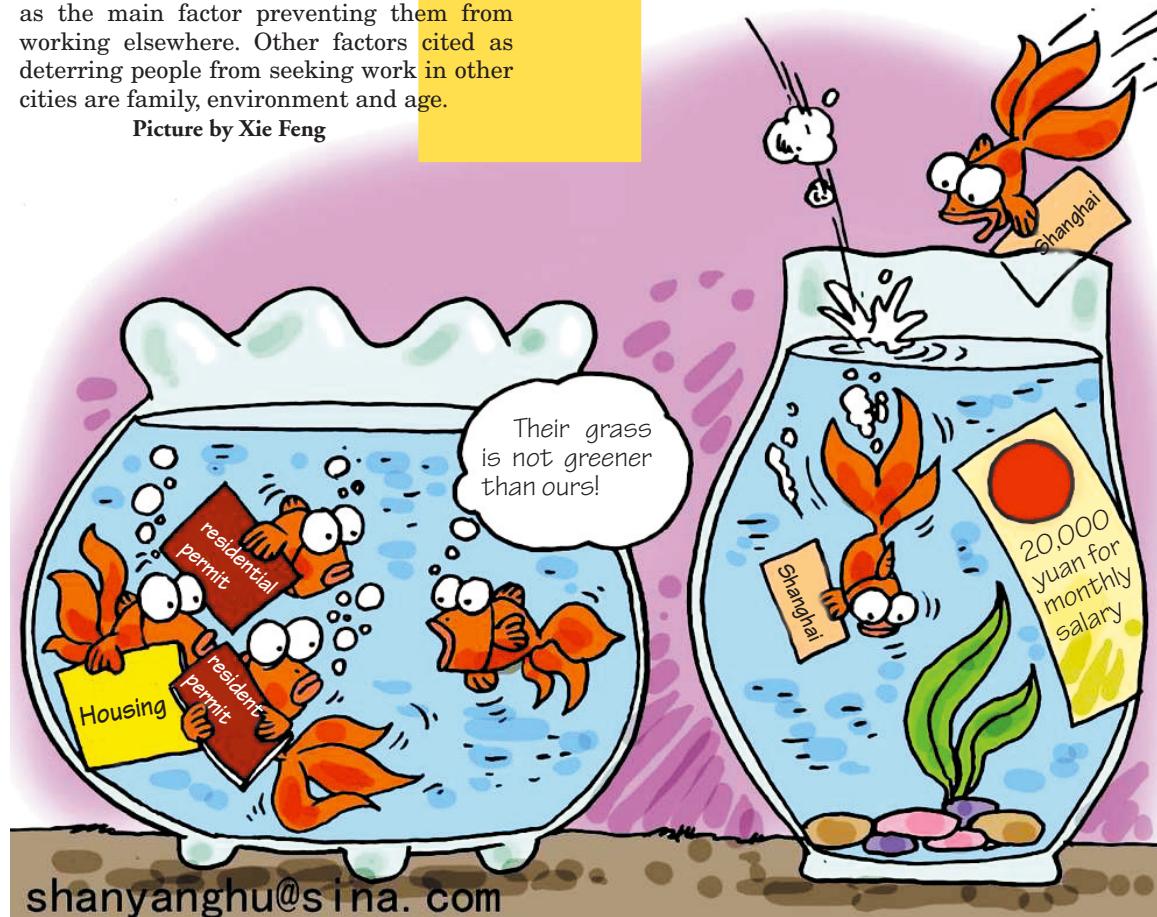
What are the factors influencing people's attitude regarding working in different cities? For Beijing residents, the main incentives to seek work in other cities were "opportunities" (88%) and "higher salaries" (85%). Beijing is a city of many "opportunities" and attracts talented personnel from all over the country. Therefore competition for jobs is fierce. On the other hand, Shanghai people placed more emphasis on "higher salaries", with 93% citing this as the most important factor. "Opportunities" came a distant second, at 64%.

There are a number of other minor factors influencing people's willingness to work in other cities, such as environment, housing, availability of permanent residential permit and so on.

In terms of people's unwillingness to relocate for the sake of employment, 82% of Beijing residents cited housing as the most

important issue. Because housing prices in Beijing are so high, locals are unwilling to abandon their homes. Permanent residential permit is the next most cited factor at 59%. Having a Beijing permanent residential permit has been a popular dream for many, so Beijing residents are reluctant to give theirs up to work elsewhere. In contrast, for Shanghai residents, salary (73%) topped the list as the main factor preventing them from working elsewhere. Other factors cited as deterring people from seeking work in other cities are family, environment and age.

Picture by Xie Feng



shanyanghu@sina.com

Plenty of Skilled Workers, But a Shortage of Top Talents

Beijing is one of the most rapidly developing cities in China. As such, it attracts job seekers from all over the country. The gathering of talented personnel stimulates the development of the city, but there remains an imbalance in the overall labor pool. There is still a shortage of advanced talent, and especially young advanced talent. Although there are some 640,000 people working in the SciTech sector, the top-level experts represent only a small fraction of this figure.

Of those people working in the SciTech sector, only one-third are under the age of 45. Therefore many people's knowledge is outdated and they are unable to keep up with latest trends. According to the Beijing Municipal Statistics Bureau, a survey of 594 enterprises in six industries found 74% see the need for advanced management personnel as the number one priority.

The survey backgrounds: the survey was conducted at the end of July by the China Economy Index Monitoring Center of the National Bureau of Statistics.

Computer Design Courses in Hot Demand

By Anita/Su Wei

Interested in Multimedia Design? There are more than 100 training centers for computer art in Beijing now, teaching young people how to use software such as Adobe Photoshop, PageMaker, Macromedia Freehand, 3D Studio MAX and VIZ, CorelDraw, Ulead Cool 3D, MS FrontPage and various others. Students enrolling at these centers may acquire a new perspective through understanding programs that teach them to use computers creatively.

Jia Tongfu, the founder of the Center for Advanced Art Education & Research, set up the first computer-training center in 1995 in Capital Normal University (CNU). He is Associate Professor of the Art Department of CNU and the Director General of the center. It was he who contributed the first three computers to the center, concerned about the widening development gap in Chinese modern industrial design and its western counterparts. Colleagues sharing his interest and students in the department also made donations, enabling the purchase of a further 10 computers and scanners. The students and teachers started out teaching themselves to use design software, buying books and materials in the library. It is mostly this original group who are now keeping the center running.

In 1997, supported by the local government, the center was granted a 3 million yuan loan for further development and three large classrooms were established in 1998. The classrooms include two personal computer rooms and one apple computer room with a capacity of more than 100 people. Today, the two-story training center has 16 classrooms, each able to hold 50 to 100 people. There are about 400 computers and more equipment, including advanced scanners, is on the way.

The training center offers authorized training certificates from Adobe and Discreet. Teachers voluntarily enhance their knowledge on a regular basis to keep up with the fast development and advances in soft and hardware. Generally, they teach students during the daytime and surf the web at night or take even more advanced seminar courses.

Many of the students in the center are currently working or maybe have quit their jobs. Some are designers and are eager to be more competitive, while others may not have done anything related to art or computers before. They are often simply lured by the prospects of having a good job in the future. A number of students who have studied in the center before are now working there as

believes learning something about graphic design will be a good supplement. "I just began the classes. The teachers are patient here and I think I have learned more than I expected."

"Next year, when you come to our center, you will find a new building inside the university, with an art museum, a cafeteria, classrooms and painting rooms." Jia exclaims proudly, points around the room as if he already in the completed building.

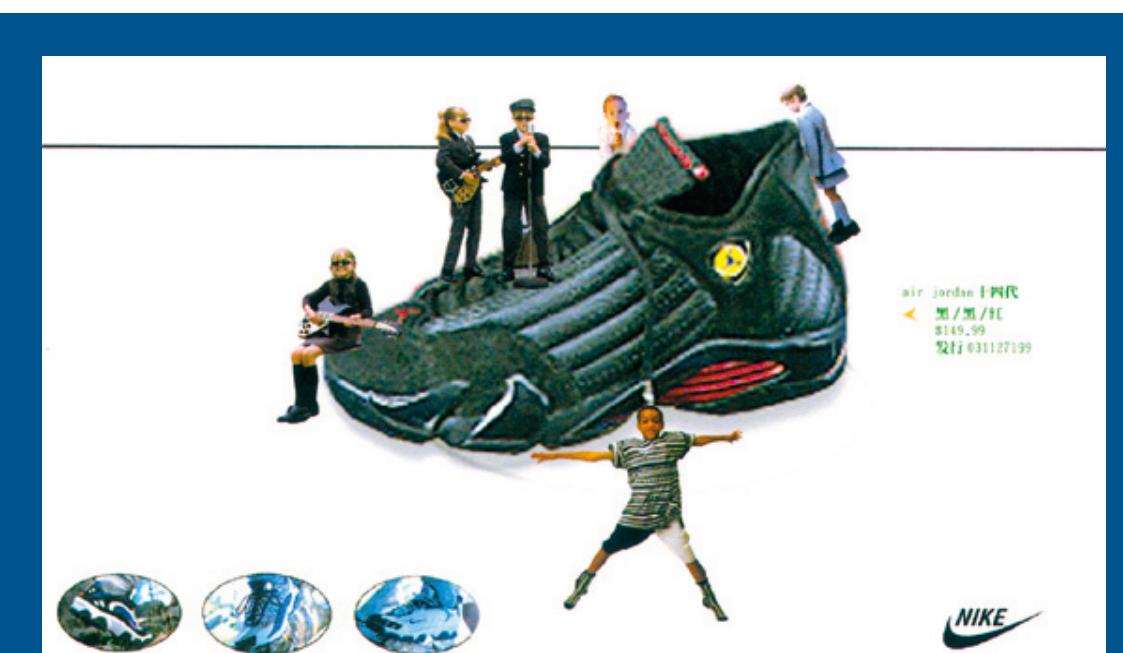
Professor Jia's center is the earliest and biggest in Beijing. There are a number of others either inside or attached to universities, such as the Training Center for Computer Arts in the Central Academy of Arts & Design. The programs are basically the same, though there are some differences in teaching and sources, and the equipments used.

Liu Jia, a young man of 23, is a teacher at the Computer Training Center for Arts in the Central Academy Arts University. He used to work in film and TV production, and before that, was an art student. However he was not satisfied with his level of knowledge, and came to the university to undertake further study. Upon completion of his course, he found that he was fascinated by the use of computers in art design and decided to become a teacher at the training center.

Some of the enrolled students are art major hoping to become designers in the future, while others lack the general art knowledge to meet the increasing competition in being a designer. "Some students lack confidence in their ability to master computer skills, and we do our best to comfort and encourage them."

He pointed out that a few professors in the areas of traditional arts aged more than 40, had enrolled in the study of computer art design, but had given up very quickly. "It is natural that someone may be good at one side, but not necessarily so good at the other side. Their intention is to master both at one time, but it seldom works." He admitted that traditional art is different from computer art and exchanges between the two kinds of artists seldom occurs.

"Being a designer is becoming increasingly popular in Beijing and other large cities, such as Shanghai and Shenzhen. The monthly salary for a graphic designer in Beijing and Shanghai is almost the same as the 3D designer around 3,000 yuan or so. But in Shenzhen, the demand for graphic designers is not so high; the salary there is between 2,000 and 3,000 yuan, much lower than that of a 3D designer." He is confident that a person equipped with art knowledge and a good command of computer skills is certain to find a good job in Beijing.



Homework, a student designed ad.

Provided by the Center for Advanced Art Education & Research (CAAER) in Capital Normal University (CNU)



An American specialist takes a class in the Apple lab.

Provided by CAAER in CNU



Jia Tongfu, the founder of the Center for Advanced Art Education & Research Photo by Su Wei

teachers.

Li Song, who studied in the center three years ago, is now a teacher there. "I like the center and Professor Jia is a very important person for me!" Yang Xinbo, a former student in the center and then an employee in a Korean company has also become a teacher of the center. "The professor is great and I like the job!"

Li Xuesong, who once worked in a bank in

Guangxi, now studies in the center. "I have been to another training center, but I found this one is much better. The teachers are good and the program is advanced. What's more, I find that being a computer artist I can freely express myself. I have to develop more potential."

Wang Shuangqing from Tangshan, Hebei, has just begun his studies at the center. His major is "Dimensional design in computer art" and he

Performers Prepare Spectacle

By Zhu Lin

Beijing aims to stun the world with its "Hello, 21" opening ceremony at the Workers' Stadium on Wednesday, August 22.

"We are confident of offering the best opening ceremony to the world," said Chen Weiya, director of the Beijing Dance Institute, as the 21st Universiade dashes into the last period of preparation.

Reptile Antics

Miao Miao, a round-faced primary school student, is Lala. The Universiade mascot has a plump green body and funky long tail. Students dressed as the Chinese alligator will roller-skate around the field during the ceremony.

"I didn't skate well at first," said Miao Miao, 11. "But the boys helped teach me for two weeks," she said at rehearsals. She fell down once.

"The playground in Peixin Primary School is too rough for roller skating, said Miao Miao. When they practice, the children can't help swaying from time to time.

"We are like penguins," said Lala Liu Shuo, touching the frame of glasses blurry with perspiration.

Her costume is green nylon. A cotton jacket covers the whole body including feet and hands. Once the kids are dressed up, it's hard for them to de-cloak. Teachers help them remove their heads.

"I know they can't bear this heat anymore," said Tian Huai-



Photo by Wang Zhen-long



Photo by Hu Jinxi

Beijing Ready for Universiade

By Chen Huiying

VIPs, referees and delegates from 16 countries arrived at Beijing Capital Airport for a dress rehearsal of the upcoming student games on Saturday.

After overseeing proceedings, inspecting the athletes' village and stadiums, Mayor Liu Qi declared Beijing "ready for the Universiade."

Officials, referees, athletes and reporters — acted by 1,000 Chinese students from 18 universities — tested the reception and transmission system. Fake USA, Egypt and Russia delegations were among those selected for

foreign language practice. Some students seemed to relish their role of raising questions and problems.

The athletes' village welcomed "guests", broadcast weather forecasts and opened entertainment and venues for religious worship. In the parking area opposite the village, fire engines, ambulances and patrol wagons appeared.

Organizing Committee officials dwelled on details, with Mayor Liu deeming disposable chopsticks not permitted.

The first Universiade delegation will arrive in Beijing on Sunday, with the athletes' village opening on Wednesday.



Photos by Ya Niu/Zeng Yicheng

Women workers at Bao Yang Industry Factory demonstrate their experience to the reporters.

"Now it's time for the court to make the judgments, otherwise we can't go home innocent."

—Chen Xue, representative of the 56 women workers

"It's really a shame for such a case to happen in my factory. I just feel remorseful."

—He Yuanhao, South Korean General Manager of Bao Yang Industry Factory

"We can never barter with the dignities of the humiliated workers."

—Zhang Baoqin, chairman of the Shenzhen Municipal Federation of Trade Unions

Frisk Crime

—Women Workers Sue South Korean Firm

By Gao Zi/Su Wei

Preparations began in October. "Hello, 21" has 33 directors, about 12,000 performers, 305 planned firework explosions and 40,000 hydrogen balloons for an estimated audience of 60,000.

Asked whether it was worth all the manpower and resources, director Chen replied, "Yes, absolutely! As long as people from all over the world are even slightly touched by the Chinese spirit at this grand scene, all of our efforts will have paid off."

The incident lasted more than an hour and was conducted in front of a total 11 male and female management staff, according to South City Daily, the Chinese newspaper that broke the story first.

The day after the search, Tuesday July 31, the wig and toupee factory managers told the workers they would be dismissed and docked them a week's pay. The workers contacted Shenzhen lawyer Zhou Litai on Wednesday August 1.

Chinese and South Korean media splashed the story. Shenzhen Vice-Mayor Wang Huiming said those responsible must shoulder the blame and the local trade union and government of the special economic zone backed the workers.

Back to Work

Factory management had a change of heart after the involvement of local government and promptly reinstated the workers on full pay.

"I am not very well aware of the Chinese laws," said manager He Yuanhao.

"The thing itself is illegal. We are sorry for those female workers. I have already apologized to the insulted workers and we learned something from this."

"It needs some time to train a skilled worker, so workers are our wealth. I wish the woman workers won't leave

the factory."

He told Oriental Time and Space program of CCTV, Korean MBC TV station at Hong Kong and Shenzhen reporters he was once a worker himself and he fully appreciated the women's position. He said it had been wrong to offend them.

But the 30,000-yuan compensation was too high, said Mr. Li, South Korean executive manager. The factory was considering solving the problem quickly with the help of legal experts, he said.

"The compensation should be paid according to some concerned terms, and if it were 10,000 or 20,000 yuan we could accept it," said Li.

Women's Demands

The 56 workers filed suit against the factory in a local court. First, they demanded an official apology; second, they demanded compensation for the direct economic loss of 2,000 yuan and third, 30,000 yuan for the spiritual suffering.

The women say 56 of them were body-searched, but the factory management insists only 51. The five others, they say, aided management. Management says an anonymous letter reported stealing, and so the management decided to check on it. This meant they must search the workers. In

fact, management claims, both sides agreed to the search. The workers say that search lasted 70 minutes, but the factory says 15 minutes and a rest time to weigh wigs.

The workers lawyers say three workers had their clothes removed by force and one worker was searched three times. The factory denies this, saying a worker willingly took off her clothes as management tried to stop her.

After investigation Shenzhen Municipal Trade Union official Liu Qin and lawyers concluded management had indeed conducted a search. Liu said:

1) the enterprise had made a body search of the woman workers;

2) factory's explanations were contradictory on some issues;

3) the factory did not seek to address the matter by law, but tried to solve it by their own illegal means.

"Foreign enterprises must obey Chinese labor laws and such violations of human rights must be forbidden in future," said Shenzhen Vice-Mayor Wang Huiming.

Dismissal Sparks Story

The story might never have broken light but for the management's decision to fire the workers and dock a week's wages a day after the search.



The women workers at first sought help from county government, but the government viewed it as local quarrel to be dealt with according to Labor Laws. Women workers and management reached an agreement the workers would quit, but the whole wages would be paid. The county government officials agreed with these arrangements.

Working efficiency had dropped due to poor sleep, the officials said. Only then had management asked the women to quit.

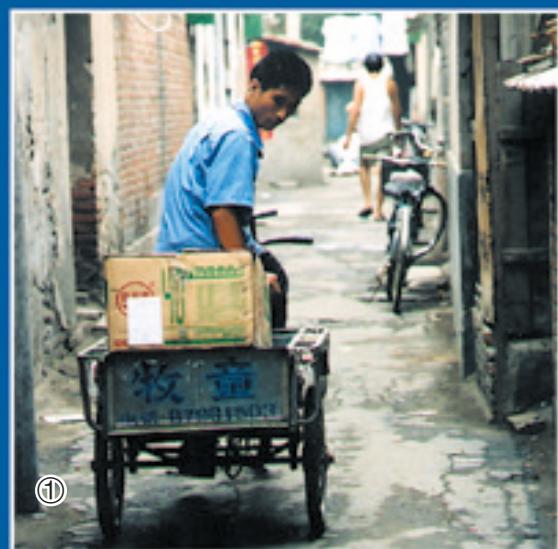
But Zhang Baoqin, chairman of the municipal Federation of Trade Unions spoke up for the woman workers. "They had suffered spiritual damage and we will not accept it if they would be dismissed from work," she said.

"Workers' dignity should not be sacrificed just for the local economic development," she said. After her involvement, the factory management recalled their dismissal of the workers.

Today, the workers are still staying in the factory, but they are not working. Many have not recovered from the shock. Some are dizzy and take daily medicine. Most of the workers at first did not tell their families about the search.

Workers' representative Chen Xue told reporters that all the women come from the countryside where people tend to be more conservative. "Family members would say we did something wrong if we were sacked without any proper reasons," she said.





By Hu Xiaoli

Ibelieve everything will be better," Zeng Jun said. The tall, dark man timidly smiled in his shabby room containing only a bed and a table.

Since the mid 1980s, rural laborers have been pouring into the big cities. Zeng, 36 years old, followed the flood in April 2000 and tried to fulfill his urban dream as a plumber installing water heaters in Macro Appliance Co., Ltd.

Country Boy's Urban Dream

Zeng was born in a poor remote village surrounded by rolling mountains in southwestern China's Sichuan province. As the elder brother of four sisters, he dropped out of school at the age of 14 in order to earn bread for his family. Climbing up the mountains alone after the daily work on the farm, the young boy silently gazed into the distance, yearning to see the world on the other side of the mountains. At the age of 19, Zeng enrolled for military service. He hoped to get out of this remote village to fulfill his wish in green uniform. However, he was assigned to a Signal Corps in an even remoter place near China's border with Russia in Xinjiang. "I was very disappointed at first," he confessed. Their sentry post, also located in a mountain valley, was cut off from the outside world from July to the following April by heavy snow. "All the color I can bring back is white—the color of the snow." Apart from the regular patrol, Zeng's world was locked inside the small sentry box. "I practiced calligraphy during those long winters," Zeng recalled emotionally. He wrote every character line by line, waiting patiently for the spring's arrival.

It was not until 1996 that Zeng came back home from Xinjiang. At that time he was 30 years old and began to work as an electrician in a state-run enterprise in a town near his village. He later started a family and believed his life would follow the same routine forever. Fate had another trick up its sleeve for him. He was laid off in 2000.

Urban Dream in Tatters

The first time Zeng went to Beijing was in April 2000, two months after be-

Making it in the Big Smoke



① On the way to work
② Enjoying time with his son in Tiananmen Square
③ Washing clothes in his tiny room

Photos by Zhuang Jian



ing laid off. "I was told that Beijing was full of chances, and that many people from our town had earned a lot of money there with some of them coming back to run their own business at home, so I decided to go to Beijing and try my luck," said Zeng.

With only 500 yuan, 35-year-old Zeng and three other young men boarded the train to Beijing. Sitting on the hard seats, the four men dreamed about their bright future. One said that he hoped to earn a lot of money in order to build a large house and marry a girl back home. The others said they wanted to broaden their horizons in Beijing and live there forever. Different from the 3 young lads, Zeng, already a father, wished to learn some practical skills to set up his own business back home. After 32 hours' journey, the tired, hungry but excited men arrived in Beijing, the largest city in China, and also the dreamland in their hearts.

Walking out of the station, the men were shocked by the sight before their eyes. Throwing their heads back, they stared at the high skyscrapers and shining neon lighting up the sky. The modern crowd and sea of cars stirred their hearts. Beijing, as an international metropolis, presented a prosperous and promising vision to these men who had just stepped out of a remote mountain village.

"Beijing filled me with hope when I got off the train," said Zeng, "and I believed I would definitely find a job soon."

However, reality and dreams always have to clash at some point. At the beginning, the four men crammed into a friend's room, which was only 10 square meters. During the day, Zeng went to the job center to find a decent job and hopefully learn some skills at the same time. However, he was rejected dozens of times due to his age and qualifications. Realizing that he wouldn't have any luck there, he had to wander around the streets, hoping to find a job by chance.

At that time, Zeng only visited Tiananmen Square once, which is the place he had been hoping to see since his childhood. That

was a clear day in spring, Tiananmen Square was crowded with the tourists. Standing in the middle of the Square, Zeng felt completely lost in the city crowds. The prosperity of Beijing never attracted Zeng again. The man from Sichuan had to overcome the crisis of surviving first.

After two months, Zeng finally found a job as a builder in a construction site, although it was not the job he wanted. "One has to survive first, right?" he said calmly, recalling the hard days. During that time, he had to work from dawn to dusk for just 20 yuan a day. He spent 5 months working hard and went back home for the Spring Festival with his first fruits gained from the big city.

"I was, actually, a little disappointed when I got on the train home," Zeng, with the other three fellows, kept silent all the way home. The urban dream lingering in his heart for 30 years was cruelly smashed.

A Beijing Plumber

Not prepared to give up his dream, Zeng, alone, bordered a train heading for Beijing again after Spring Festival in 2001. "I still hoped to have another go," said Zeng. In March, Zeng was lucky enough to be hired by Macro's installation sector. "I was very happy when I heard I'd got the job," said Zeng.

"The first time I went to work alone was in the evening," Zeng recalled cheerfully. With a map in his pocket, Zeng headed for the destination on a tricycle loaded with a water heater. He asked five people the way. "They were all very nice," Zeng had a very good impression of the locals. He spent nearly two and half-hours getting there. The buyer's home was on the seventh floor with no lift in the building, so Zeng had to climb seven floors with the heavy water heater on his back. Although it was a little cold, he was soaked with sweat.

"I was a little nervous the first time," he said with a timid smile. It was the first time he had been to a flat in Beijing and the first time to do a job completely by himself. He told himself to behave decently and confidently. On this first visit, Zeng spent nearly two hours installing the water heater, whereas an experienced worker would only take half an hour. Fortunately, the buyer didn't mind his slowness, but praised his conscientious attitude. It took him until 9 o'clock to finish the job. "I didn't feel tired or hungry at all when

I rode my empty tricycle home, for I was very happy to complete a whole assignment by myself," Zeng said with a smile in his eyes.

The farthest assignment Zeng got was near Tong County, in the far east of Beijing. "That was quite a windy day in April," Zeng said.

That day, Zeng left home early and cycled the usual 30 minutes' journey to work arriving before 7 o'clock. "I was always the first person to arrive at work," said Zeng. The early birds would get installation assignments first. In order to get more assignments in a day, Zeng is always the first to come and the last to go. The first assignment that day was to Tong County. Nobody wanted to go to such a far place for the same pay. However, Zeng gladly received this assignment and headed for the buyer's home with the new water heater on his tricycle. "I treat every assignment as a practice, and I can still earn some money. So, I never refuse any assignment no matter how far it is." On that windy day, he rode his tricycle painstakingly in the dust and sand. This time it took him more than 3 hours.

Everything Will Be Better

It is not easy to get a job in Beijing for a person who cannot meet the education and age requirements, especially those from country villages like Zeng. "So I cherish this chance very much," said Zeng.

Nowadays, Zeng is taking a one-week-long professional training course organized by his company. Those who haven't passed the exam cannot get any assignments. "It is not easy to keep this job," Zeng slowly took out a notebook from his pocket, "I take it with me everywhere and review the notes as much as possible." Life in Beijing is still hard, but Zeng has a goal in mind. "I wish to learn more practical skills about installation and maintenance of water heaters, and then go back home to run a small business like this.

But now," Zeng paused for a while, "I just want to accompany my son and wife to Tiananmen Square when I am free."

His wife and 5-year-old son arrived in Beijing several days ago to visit him, but he hasn't got any time to go out with them. "I have to prepare for the exam these days," Zeng said regretfully. His little son sat quietly in his arms, hugging his father tightly. "My son will go to primary school this summer back at home. I hope he can study hard and go to university in Beijing," Zeng lowered his head, watching his son tenderly.

"Will we go to Tiananmen, Dad?" the little son suddenly asked his father in a small voice. "Sure! You have my word," the father replied affirmatively. As he often said, everything will be better in the future.

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A print major graduate from the northwest cultural center of Xi'an, with only three successive years full time practice on canvas, became contract painter of Shanghai Broadland Television Corporation two years ago. His work "The Drunken Beauty" (140×160cm oil painting on canvas) sold for the shocking price of 1 million yuan at this spring auction in Shanghai. Liu Linghua has now made his debut at China National Museum of Fine Art.

Beijing Opera in Splash of Oils

By Miao Yajie

18 paintings of National Quintessence

Liu Linghua is certainly not the first to paint the subject: personae from the national quintessence, Beijing opera. Well-established contemporary painters like Lin Fengmian and Guan Liang had presented the theme both on canvas and *Xuan* paper. Putting art analysis aside for a moment, Liu's presence on the second floor at the top national gallery did bring something new: the usual quietness of the art hall was broken: melodious, rhythmic and sonorous Beijing opera could be heard downstairs. In the middle of the grand showroom, coming into view was the 1 million yuan-worth "The Drunken Beauty". On the right were one table and two chairs used as props on stage, on the left were prop weapons and martial role costumes. Even the interview was done on the prop chairs.

Painted over a period of two years, a series of paintings under the name of "18 paintings of National Quintessence" drew most attention from viewers. Household personae in Beijing opera such as Yang Yuhuan, legendary butterfly lovers and the fairy white snake were fully displayed in a bold new way.

"The most striking thing in Liu's work is the bright and splendid atmosphere, which can only be felt in Beijing opera. The formation of the atmosphere does not lie in the actions or shapes of the personae, but in the artist's superb application of color," commented Zhu Guorong, vice

chairman of Shanghai Artists Association. "Standing before his painting, it seems as if one could hear Beijing opera singing, passionate 'Jinghu' (a Chinese traditional musical instrument), and the loud and exciting drum," added Zhu.

"Broadland and I easily agree on what I should paint. Both parties feel we have the responsibility to promote our national quintessence through my works," said the stout, long haired painter with a slight northwestern accent.

Ten Million Made Painter

The turning point in Liu Linghua's fortune was at the '99 Shanghai Art Exposition. Liu graduated from the Print Department of Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts. Strictly speaking, for a long time oil painting was just a hobby for the young teacher at his Alma Mater.

One of his paintings named "Years" stands out among the rest. The endless vicissitudes on the old Tibetan woman's face touched Shanghai Broadland in their search for talented artists at the Expo. Luckily, Liu Linghua became the first contract painter of the company.

In two years, Liu accomplished his change of styles. From the early works with traces of Van Gogh, one of Liu's favorite painters, to the relatively steady style of the opera personae, without the contract with Broadland, there is no doubt that Liu would have groped his way through the dark just like the rest of the obscure painters.

At a spring auction this year, Liu's "The Drunken Beauty" was hammered out at an astronomical figure of 1 million yuan. No easy feat when taking his age, background and

the current art market into account. Though the value of an artwork is testified by time rather than price, the "just-out-of-the-oven millionaire" made clear the definition of a contract painter in the most concrete way.

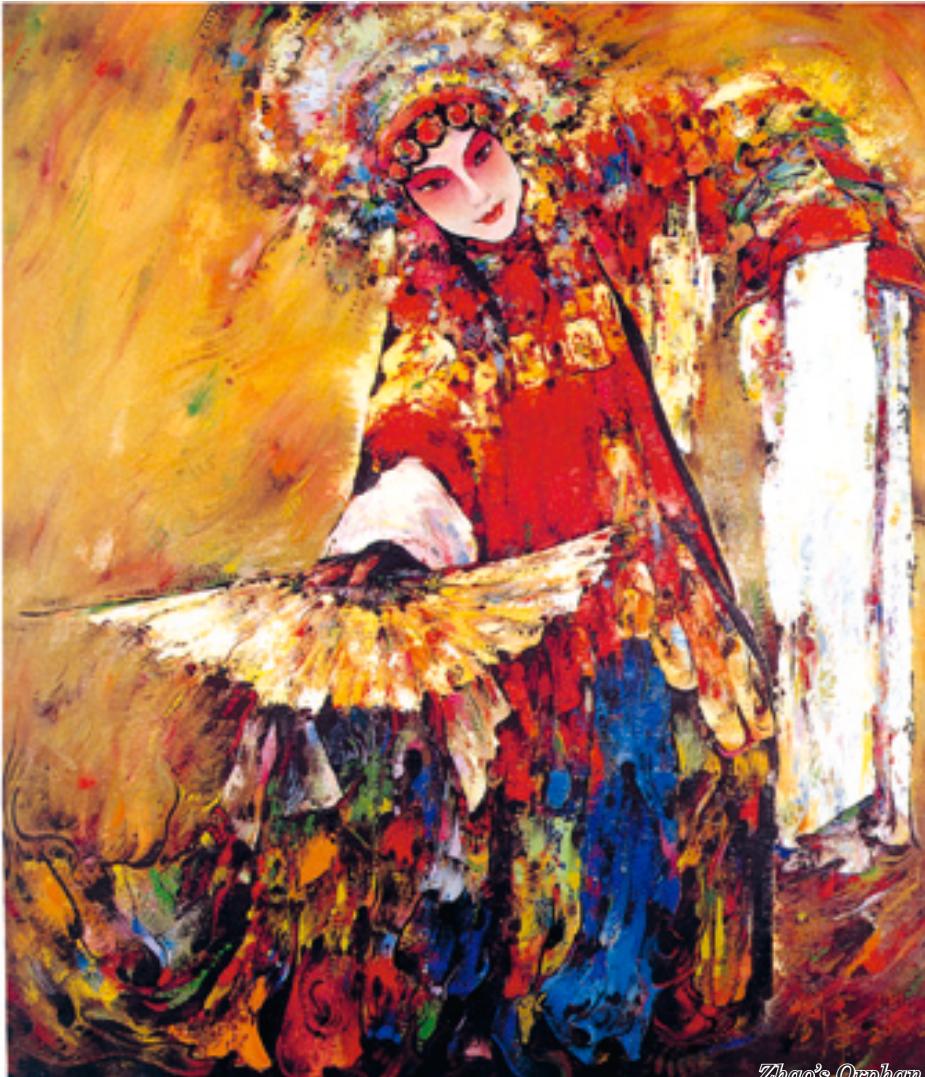
Behind Liu's endeavor was an investment reaching right up to 10 million yuan. Whether in art or business, 10 million yuan is a serious amount of money. According to the general manager of Broadland, Zhu Jianguo, "We believe if we bring the public the best art product, attain a kind of realm, it's just a matter of time before we recoup our investment."

There is something more about Liu Linghua and his exhibition.

His paintings are highly considered by masters of Beijing opera like Yuan Shihai and Mei Baojiu, and opera fans along with ordinary viewers.

Meanwhile the academic circles seem to be quite indifferent. Five researchers specializing in contemporary art at the Research Institute of Fine Arts were interviewed, but none of them knew the exhibition at the National Museum, and none of them knew about Liu Linghua. Liu was considered to be an "expo painter", while the expo was considered a commercial operation. According to researcher Zhang Xiaoling, art criteria and commercial criteria for art are completely different spheres, though the masters never neglected the commercial side.

No matter what the conclusion is, the progress made by Liu Linghua gives us a reason to look forward to the upcoming China Art Exposition from 24-28 August in Beijing.



Zhao's Orphan



Liu Linghua with "The Drunken Beauty" Photos by Zhuang Jian

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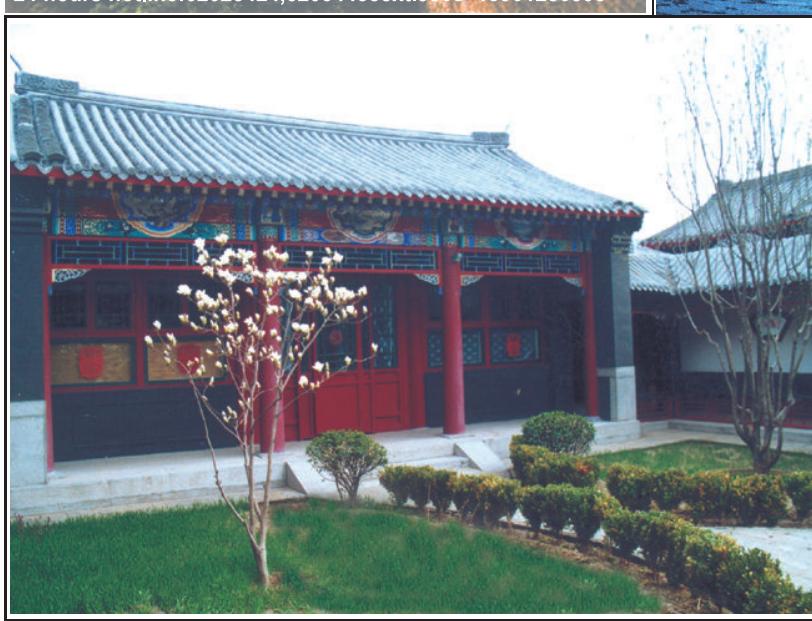
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Bamboo Cools the Heart



Photo by Cui Jia

By Cui Jia

"Wow, how could such strange bamboo instruments make beautiful music like that?" Such was the surprise felt by a member of the audience at a bamboo music show in a teahouse in Zizhu Park in Haidian District on July 28. This was the first public performance by China's first bamboo band, Green Bamboo Band.

Wang Wei, the founder of the bamboo band said: "Most people don't know that bamboo is the most ideal material for instruments. We just want people to know bamboo can make the most beautiful music in the world."

All the instruments in the band were made by the band members. With previously unknown instruments, the band created a new kind of musical beauty. Although some of the

melodies played were familiar, the new medium expressing them gave a whole new experience. The bamboo music might bring a cool feeling to the bottom of the heart even on a hot summer day.

Listeners were allowed to practice bamboo instruments themselves after the performance. The close contact with the strange new material seemed to reinforce the impression of surprise created by the show. This show is part of the 8th Zizhu Bamboo Culture Festival hosted by the park, which contains over 1 million bamboo plants.

The show is on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10am to 11 am until September 1st. Entrance is free, but you must purchase a pot of tea costing 15 yuan. A great way to cool yourself down on a hot summer day.

Modern Concepts in Ancient Porcelain

Pottery Gallery's New Blue White Porcelain Show on August 5.

The blue-white porcelain on show represents artists from both home and abroad. Artists mix new ideas with more traditional techniques in molding the blue-white porcelain.

"All of the exhibits are made right here in HAP Pottery Gallery and baked in our brick-kiln, the only one in Beijing to use fruit trees as fuel. This place is a paradise for blue-white porcelain lovers," art director Jiang Yan explained. Actually, HAP Pottery Gallery is not merely a gallery, it also acts as a pottery workshop for artists from around the world.

Visitors are also welcome to create their own works in HAP Gallery. The HAP Pottery Gallery will provide accommodation costing around 2,500 yuan per month. Jiang said, "The feeling of letting the mud rolling around your fingers is so great. Once you start, you can't stop. And don't worry if it's ugly, because creation is the best part!"

Holland Artist Adriaan Rees

Photo Provided by HAP Pottery Gallery



by Xiao Xia

"If I wrote this book today, I would not have been so unrestrained and might have lost the energy and imagination to break all conventions." Jin Jin commented on her book *Rebuild the Gate of Hell*.

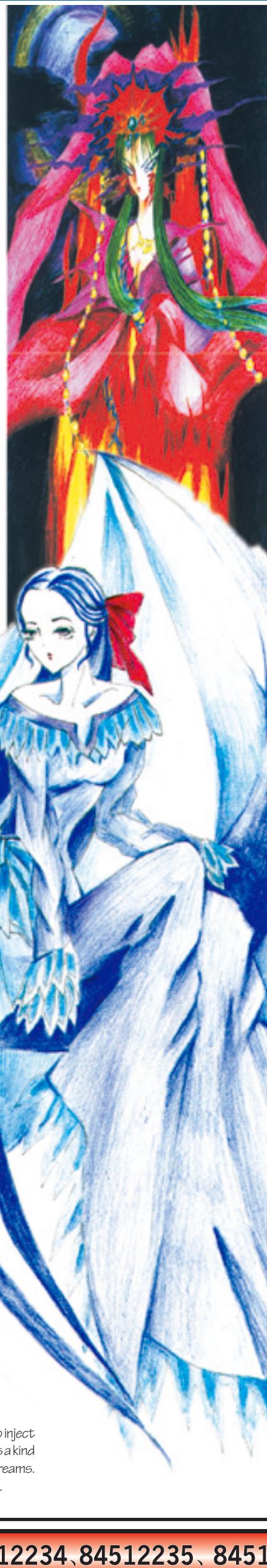
Jin, a girl born in 1984, published this legend book on the story of the hell in January 2001, and successfully gained royalties of 7%. All these arose from a girl's game 6 years ago.

Jin denied her book to be

"We hoped to write a story with the background of hell," said Jin, recalling her life at the last year of primary school. In the 10-year-old girl's eyes, hell was the most horrible place, which was the exact contrast with the theme of the book: pursuing the truth, kindness and beauty of mankind. Some quitted and some stayed. When the game came to an end, a work of 300,000 characters emerged.

Jin denied her book to be

Compared with books from the Chinese intelligentsia, *Rebuild the Gate of Hell* does turn out to be somewhat innocent and simple. While what counts is the untraceable purity in a young soul. Just like Jin Jin said herself, "the value of the book results from its purity".



Value Results From Purity

Postscript

by Jin Jin

As soon as the sound of my typing stopped, my body began to warm up, as if I was reborn out of an icy-cold dead body-I have come back to life. But, I was clearly aware that only my body had come round and that my consciousness was still sleeping soundly in the abyss of hell.

Love will take me away. The love I've offered is pulling me to rush to the figures that stand stiff there. When I look into their eyes squarely, I find it is a world of freedom and pursuit. Here, you can release your love completely. Everything becomes simple. You only need to taste what you have experienced.

Light has penetrated thick curtains, shining upon the bodies of those standing figures. They immediately become vivid souls with blood and flesh. The green color contains a soft flavor; the golden red color generates the charm of flames, and women of great beauty look as gentle as water. If you silently look at these scenes, you'll be totally attracted to a different world.

With my firm belief I wish this desire that is pregnant with madness could resound in the boundless universe. So, I wove my scattered trains of thought into a piece of fine fabric and drew threads from the knots

which I planted in every corner that could feel me.

If you could dispel all misgivings and forget the pattern fixed in your heart, to throw yourself into such creation, you'll feel the unprecedented tremendous joy of being tied by threads and then transformed from a chrysalis to a free butterfly. That is recreation and a feeling of sudden self-relaxation in the wake of despair after being totally repudiated.

I never believed writing could be so magical. But now I find what I've created are not black and white matters. On the contrary, I've been melted by the goblins they have changed into. When I'm reluctant to loosen my hands that hold them, a kind of unexplainable emptiness seems to fill me. At the moment when I'm unable to curb this sense of emptiness, I suddenly find they have poured ever-illuminating flames into me.

Thoroughly washed by this red deluge, I really taste the value of search. I also deeply believe that the seeds they have sown after they got rid of my control and were allowed to fly freely in a new world will sprout and grow there. Climbing the vine, we will fall off to the underground second Eden-our hell.

No force can contract the tremendous driving force of life. But, they possess the power to inject life again into souls. This kind of life is a kind of real life full of hopes and sweet dreams. It adds perfect wings to this world.

Under the shine of light, the God and the devil select their subjects and send them to the human and nether worlds respectively. In the fascinating universe, life ignites the sun and the moon and, clashing into stars, generate a sequence of dreams. The red-hot earth kindles hopes everywhere. While the uncertainty and mystery of the future are no longer important, the courage and will in life can overwhelm all things of creation.

A Trial

by Jin Jin

"What's the matter?"

When opening her eyes, Haishi, a student, though still feeling in a daze, found a kind of relaxation she had never experienced before. After gradually adapting herself to the lights in the room, she was surprised to see herself become a roll of invisible air and be put in a milk jar. She endeavored to curb her fear and looked around in a flurry, trying to remember what had happened.

Suddenly, she saw by her side a fish bowl in a grotesque shape, and her sister Shanmeng was lying in it. There were many strange bottles around them, all containing transparent figures in a coma like herself. Shanmeng put her face against the glass fish bowl, yelling to her. But Haishi could not hear her. As the two anxiously waited, heavy and loud footsteps came nearer and nearer, shaking the floor and walls. Frightened, they huddled themselves up. In a while, four feet stood before them, the girls were frightened. Unconsciously, two pairs of big hands lifted their containers and carried them to pass a dimly lit passage. The passage was very narrow and the walls shone wet reddish light. They felt it very long, like a time tunnel without terminus leading them to an unimaginably long path.

Eventually, they passed the passage and came to a hall with floating green flames. "Is a performance to be staged here?" the girls wondered.

Eighteen fellows covered with black cloth stood on the two sides of the hall. In the center, there was a huge desk, on which there was a large black computer and scattered files. Behind the desk sat a man in full dress. With his hair covering half his face and

his feet up on the edge of the desk, he seemed to be asleep. Beside him stood a young woman, wearing a crimson suit. With strong cosmetics, her face looked sham. Trying to make a sexy posture with her plump body, the rather good-looking woman looked very seductive.

There were 18 other ferocious looking fellows in the hall. Their bizarre and exquisite clothes fully exposed their heftiness. In the back, there were two lovely young girls with contrasty colors of skin. The girl standing on the left side, with dark skin and black hair, looked at Shanmeng and Haishi friendly with her large glittering eyes. The other girl, who looked the same as the black girl, had snow white skin and silver hair. With a firm and stiff gaze, she seemed to be indifferent to anything in the world. Their appearances were different from those of normal people. Without vitality, they exhibited a demonic aura.

Shanmeng could not help associating them with Black and White Wuchangs (demons regarded as messengers of death).

As if receiving the message, the black girl asked Shanmeng, "Do you know about Black and White Wuchangs?"

Shanmeng was dumbfounded. "How strange. She even knew what I was thinking." Before Shanmeng answered the question, the white girl pulled the black girl by the sleeve. "What are you up to, White Wuchang?"

The white girl reminded her seriously, "Black Wuchang, a case is to be heard. According to Article 1123 of the Law of Hell, no conserving with criminals."

The woman in crimson shouted, "The court will now rise."

The lids of the two girls' containers were opened. As the woman in crimson clapped her hands, a pair of large hands lifted them out. Now, they could see the faces of the owners of the two pairs of large hands and huge feet. They unexpectedly found the latter were staring at them too with their lifeless eyes. Being taken aback, the girls widened their field of vision which embraced two gigantic hairy animal faces-Ox Head and Horse Face (two demon attendants of the King of Hell).

In anxiety, Shanmeng shouted, "What's all this about? We are not dead. Why are we here?"

"How dare you make such noises here?"

Haishi, who could no longer control herself, said, "Could you please explain all this to us? Are we really dead?"

White Wuchang said impatiently, "Outrageous. We have to try many cases a day. If everybody wants an explanation, how can we finish our work?"

"I suppose you're not busy working. You're busy sleeping," mumbled Shanmeng while glancing the man behind the desk.

Black and White Wuchangs and the woman in crimson immediately looked grave. Shanmeng realized she had said something wrong.

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Mystery Rises in Icon's Film

By Zeng Yue

"I will exert myself to make the best Kongfu film in China," said Zhang Yimou. Zhang, the most renowned director in China, has devoted himself to the preparation of his first Kongfu film "Hero" since March this year. The film will formally be shot on August 15.

Zhang Yimou built his fame through movies covering topics on Chinese rural life or historic events. For now, however, Zhang's first Kongfu movie remains a mystery in both entertainment circles and for cinema-goers.

Mysterious Story

The story of "Hero" has already been revised three times but still remains uncertain. While in an interview, Zhang Yimou described it as an attempt to assassinate the Emperor Qin, the first Emperor of the Qin Dynasty of 221 BC.

In this story, the assassin takes 20 years to master the difficult art of fencing and goes

to every length to get an audience with the Emperor. One day the assassin shows the emperor a beautiful piece of calligraphy depicting the character for "Sword". The assassin gets close to Emperor Qin but fails to kill him.

There have been many assassins in the history of the Qin Dynasty. Chen Kaige's Film "The Emperor and the Assassin" in 1999 showed us a story between another assassin and the same emperor.

Chen Kaige was Zhang Yimou's classmate in Beijing Film Institute and also a famous film director in China.

Mysterious Acting

The hero and heroine are still mysterious. Different alternatives had already been reported in the media.

Jet Lee, also named as Li Lianjie, a famous Chinese Kongfu star, was reported moved to tears by a letter from Zhang Yimou and decided to accept the acting invitation. Gong Li, who cooperated with Zhang Yimou in 8 movies, and Zhang Ziyi, the actress of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" were also on the media list.

It is also reported Tony Leung and Maggie Cheung, both of whom starred the film In the Mood of Love, would be the actor and the actress.

Mysterious Location

To choose the best outdoor scene, Zhang Yimou was reported to have covered a great deal of places in China, from Jiuzhaigou, a famous scenery in South China's Sichuan Province to Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, west of China. Some even reported that Xi'an, capital city of Shaanxi Province and also Zhang's hometown, would serve as a location for outdoor scenes because of the city's historic relics.

According to the latest news, Zhang Yimou has chosen Dunhuang of Gansu Province, famous for the grottoes of wall pictures on the Silk Road.

All the above mysteries of Hero, with the investment of 100 million yuan, will come to an end on August 15. That just leaves one mystery. With his first Kongfu movie, will Zhang Yimou achieve his climax of career or meet his Waterloo?

Films directed by Zhang Yimou

2000 Happy Times
1999 The Road Home
1999 Not one Less (received Golden Lion Award at the 1999 Venice Film Festival)
1997 Keep Cool
1995 Shanghai Triad
1994 To Live
1991 The Story of Qiu Ju
1991 Raise the Red Lantern
1990 Ju Dou
1989 The Terracotta Warrior
1988 Codename Cougar
1987 Red Songhum (the best film of Chicago Film Festival)

Photo by Cui Jun

Piano Princess Meets Her Challenge in Beijing

By Zeng Yue

No matter where Linda Gentille got her title of "Piano Princess", her great specialty was to charm Chinese audiences. Her coming recital "Modern and Romantic Concert" on August 17 and 18 at the Great Theatre of Nationalities will be her fourth tour in China and first in Beijing.

Linda Gentille is the western musician who has held the most concerts in China. In the past three years, she has been to over 30 cities in China giving more than 40 concerts.

Gentille is famous for mixing classical music and other forms of modern music together. Piano Disco and Piano Jazz were the titles given to her music. Three years ago, when she appeared on stage before Chinese audiences, they were still curious about blending pop or rock into classical



Photo by Zhuang Jian

music. But now, there have been more and more people following this fashion, and it's hard to find an artist who hasn't tried mixing old and new styles. Will people still regard her a princess at piano performances? Gentille may meet her challenge in Beijing soon.

Sound of Angels Lights Beijing Night



Photo by Geng Chun

By Zhang Jing

Standing on stage, young lasses looked up to the ceiling of the 21st Century Theater, as if observing snow falling from heaven. The delightful voices of the Argentina Youth Choir bathed Beijing audiences in their song during a concert of the 2nd China International Children's Choir Festival, on August 1.

Children and Youth Choirs from Argentina, Slovenia, Denmark, Hong Kong and Beijing shared their var-

ious cultures and songs in this festival, which will run in the cities of Hong Kong, Beijing, Guiyang and Guangzhou respectively.

Deeply influenced by western culture, the Hong Kong high school girls stylishly danced to the jazz beat of an American song, while Slovenian teens, all in white, combined modern rhythm into their folk dance. Even if a little shy in swinging to their songs, boys and girls from Beijing gracefully brought in the show of "Rock Hallelujah". Different cultures came together in the form of choirs to show their own uniqueness in this concert.

The angels' voices conquered hearts on that night. By the music, singers led the audience to sorrow, loneliness, delight and acceptance, so pure and so full of life. As a member of the audience commented, "Excellent!"

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“Red” Memorabilia Speaks of Revolutionary Era

Panjiayuan



By Li Dan

Among all the artifacts on sale at Panjiayuan, the genuine and the recently manufactured “antiques”, Cultural Revolution memorabilia are of particular interest to many of the foreigners who frequent the market. Everyone wants to take home a Chairman Mao badge, or their own “little red book”.

The long alley of second-hand book stalls, just to the right of the main entrance, is packed with shops and stands selling such artifacts, as well as propaganda posters from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Whether you are familiar with recent Chinese history or not, you will no doubt be aware of the significance of the color red. Red stands for happiness, for passion, and for revolution, and there is plenty of red here; red badges, red books and red revolutionary posters.

The posters are particularly

interesting. Many feature portraits of Chinese leaders, some stress the importance of fighting against enemies and suppressing counterrevolutionaries, while others, usually hung in schools, factories, and communes, encourage cleanliness, diligence and honesty. Nowadays, they are rarely seen outside such markets, and fetch prices ranging from 60 yuan for a propaganda poster from the 1970s, to several thousand yuan for one featuring original artwork. In May of last year, an American reportedly spent 16,000 yuan buying a series for 7 original etchings of revolutionary posters. Be warned that virtually all of those posters from the 1920s, 30s and 40s advertising cigarettes, soap and cosmetics are reproductions (often made to look old) and are worth no more than 10 yuan each!

Badges, statues and pamphlets carrying quotations of Chairman Mao are also here in abundance. The smallest badges cost only a few yuan, while bigger, or less common examples can sell for 100 yuan or more. The ordinary statues are made of plaster, and range from 5 or 10, to several thousand yuan, again according to age, size and authenticity.

Apart from posters and things related directly to Chairman Mao, there are many other “revolutionary” artifacts, such as plates, bowls, cups and pen containers with inspiring paintings on them, sleeve badges and clocks featuring Red Guards waving little red books (again, most of these are reproductions; look closely at the clock face, are the phosphorous dots real, or is it a color photocopy?). And keep it in mind that whatever you find as you wander here, bargaining is always a must! **Add:** Beijing Panjiayuan Flea Market, Panjiayuan Rd. (潘家园路), south part of east third ring road, Chaoyang District. **Open:** Sat. and Sun. 9am-4:30pm.

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搜SHOPPING店

No Name Hand-made Clothes



Photo by Fan Xuedong

been unable to decide on an appropriate one. Despite its lack of a name however, many people know about her shop.

The shop is on the first floor of a 2-storey building. The second floor is an office, and the first floor is divided into three parts, a small pottery shop, a bar and the clothes shop. There is an old wooden weaving loom

in the room and numerous attractive decorations are hung around the walls. The clothes are all quite reasonably priced. A mandarin gown for instance, will cost 400-600 yuan; a pair of trousers or a jacket at around 200 yuan. Some of the cloth comes features traditional minority nationality designs.

Customers here select clothes at their leisure, there is none of the high pressure selling of the big

department stores. If you feel tired, you can order a drink sitting on the high wooden stool at the bar, and chat with Hai Yan. Besides cotton clothes, there are also sweaters, bags and shoes. The pottery decorations in the neighboring shop are also reasonably priced, starting from 10 or 20 yuan. **Add:** 12 Gongti Beilu (工体北路), Chaoyang District, the white 2-storey building, opposite the north gate of Worker's Stadium (Gongti), west of the post office. **Open:** 9:30am-10pm. **Tel:** 64155830.

By Jiao Pei

What's your favorite shop or stand? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902522 or 13910916642. Email: jianrong@ynet.com.

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Home Silk Adds Elegance to Your Living Space

By Li Dan

Don't you want to decorate your room in gorgeous traditional Chinese style but maintain a modern feel? If yes, then you should pay a visit to Huangjin (皇锦), a store specializing in royal-style silk decorations for bed, dining and living room.

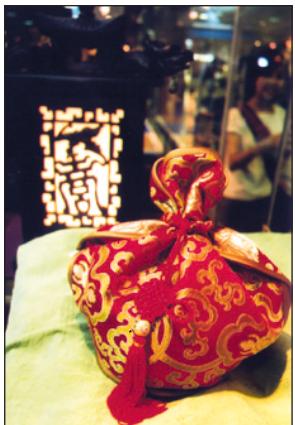


Photo by Chen Shuyi

The window is covered with diaphanous colored veils, and a lamp with a wooden Buddha for a base and silk shade stands at the door. There are a selection of antique cabinets and vases for sale, while on shelves along one wall, various colored silk pillows, cushions and bags in traditional Chinese designs create a dazzling and tempting spectacle. Each is covered in soft, silk fabric in satin weave, and range in price from 240 to 380 yuan. Notable are some silk decorations for the dining table, simply called Table Top, ranging from around 20 yuan to 500 yuan, including tablecloths, place mats, wine bottle covers, tea mats, tissue cases, coasters and even chopstick covers. From sumptuous bedding to tiny silk bands, the designers, all art school graduates, have tried to combine traditional royal-style patterns with modern, fashionable and practical design concepts.

Add: Emperor, Shop 119 (near the Skating Rink), B1 Floor, China World Shopping Mall, World Trade Center, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, bus 1, 4, 57, 28, 48, 9 or subway to Guomao. Also at Oriental Plaza, AA12, 1 East Chang'an Avenue. **Open:** 9am-9:30pm. **Tel:** 65056146/85186418. **Web:** www.silkhome.com.

HAIRSTYLIST EXTRAORDINAIRE



By Wang Dandan

An ordinary pair of scissors become magical tools in his hands and he usually spends one or two hours polishing a hairdo.

For women and men alike, the hairstyle is one of the most important aspects of ones appearance, however, few Chinese hairdressers are experienced in catering to westerners needs. Chen Li, popularly known by his English name Charly, is creative director and head of Strands Salon at the China World Hotel, and is highly popular with many foreigners living in, or just visiting Beijing.

Sitting behind you, Charly gives deep consideration to your hairstyle. While he does so, you'd better keep silent, perhaps take a short rest. Maybe five minutes will elapse before he cuts even a strand of hair. He believes that only delicately designed styles can reveal individual personality.

Charly managed his first salon at the age of 18. He loves the beauty business so much that in 1998 he financed himself to study at 3 internationally renown hairdressing academies in London: Vidal Sassoon, Tony & Guy and Wella London Studio. In August 1999, at the China National Hair & Beauty Festival, Charly was invited to perform at the “Wella Hairshow”. His contribution and performance was very well received by thousands of hairdressers and the fashion industry.

If you desire, you can have a VIP room all to yourself at Strands. And don't worry if you don't speak Chinese, you'll have no trouble communicating with Charly while you are there. **Add:** Strands Salon, China World Hotel No. 1, Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing **Tel:** 65052266-47. **Open:** daily from 10 am - 9 pm; Sat., from 9 am - 8 pm.

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CBD rents fell in last season

Activity increased in the Beijing Grade A office market in the second quarter of 2001. The majority of enquiries were for smaller space requirements, ranging from 200 to 500 square metres, according to Jones Lang Lasalle.

The average Grade A office vacancy rate was 14.8% in the second quarter of 2001, up 0.4%.

Despite the modest increase in the average vacancy rate, the occupancy rates of some newer Grade A office buildings increased.

The average Grade A office rent fell in the second quarter, the first time since the first quarter of 2000 mainly as a result of the competitive rents on offer in the newer buildings and the reluctance of many tenants to in-

Beijing
Office

crease rental budgets.

In addition some Grade A office buildings lowered the terms offered for renewal in order to retain existing tenants. The most significant drop was in the CBD, where rents fell 5.2%. Rents declined 3.9% in the 3rd Embassy Area and 2.0% in the East Chang'an Area.

Notable leasing transactions included:

Lucent Technologies leased 10,000 square metres in Oriental Plaza;

Philip Morris took 1,800 square metres in Beijing Exchange Tower;

The European Union committed to 800 square metres in Dongwai Office Building; and

TMP leased 500 square metres in Hyundai Millennium Tower.



Picture by Li Yue

Why are you staying at this hotel?

Guest **Q** Target: Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center
When: 14:00-16:00, Thursday, August 2nd
Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan

Diana Utermann, Britain

I have been living in the Kempinski for 7 years and I like the hotel very much. I think the office, apartment and hotel compose a golden triangle. Work in the office, live in the apartment and my guests stay in the hotel.

The location is very convenient as it is near the ring road. I have just bought a new Mercedes and when it is parked, all the garage staff take great care of it, as if it were their own car.

Helge Stavonhagen, Germany

I know what the general manag-

er here keeps in mind is "no problem is too small, no concept is too big". I remember that I entered a toilet in the lobby one time and when I pressed the button, no water came out. I phoned the G.M to tell him, and within five minutes, the problem was solved.

The hotel staff have been working here for a long time and every time I meet them, I feel as if I were at home. The bellboy, the front desk, even the housekeeping staff. I only wish that the price of cigarettes sold in the lobby shop could be a little lower!

Thorsten Mader, Germany

I am a returning guest of the Kempinski. They have nearly all major airline offices nearby. Doctors, schools and shopping centers are quite near. The standard of security is high. When I was in a five-star hotel in Hefei, I always receive phone calls: "hello, I am Susan ...", "Hello, I am Lisa ..."; I have received no such phone calls here.

They have double glazed windows in all the rooms to keep out the dust and noise, and they are

imported from Germany. Even the bath plugs are made in Germany!

Stephan Wonne, America

The hygiene standard is very high. People from west usually pay much attention to the bathrooms. After I checked in, I was given a private concierge which means I can turn to him if I have any problems. I do not have to make several phone calls before the problem can be solved. It is quite convenient.

The swimming pool is very nice. I can look the sky when I am in the water.

(The above comments were made by randomly chosen guests and do not reflect the opinion of Beijing Today.)

Renting in the West west Third Ring Road

By Wang Dandan

Housing is presenting a series of articles introducing typical apartment prices in various areas of Beijing. How much should you expect to pay for a typical apartment around the northeast of the second ring road? Is it cheaper to rent in the southwest or the southeast? Today, we look at apartment prices around the west Third Ring Road, which runs from Suzhouqiao in the north through Gongzhufen to Lizeqiao in the south.

North Prices around Weigongcun and Zizhuqiao range from about 1,500 yuan for a simply-decorated, fully furnished one-room apartment to 2,000 yuan for two rooms and 2300 yuan for three rooms. More elaborately decorated apartments might cost between 1,800 - 2,000 yuan for one room, and up to 4,000 yuan for two rooms.

Zizhuqiao to Hangtianqiao: One room 1,200 yuan, three room 2,000 yuan

In this area, the prices are a little lower than the northern side. A simply decorated, fully furnished one room apartment should cost around 1,200 yuan, two rooms, 1,600 yuan and three rooms 2,000 yuan. Better quality apartments can reach 1,800 yuan (one room) and 2500 yuan (two rooms).

Northern side of Gongzhufen: One room 1,300 yuan, three room 2,200 yuan

The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 1,300 yuan, two room 1,800 yuan and three rooms 2,200 yuan. Prices are a little higher at Huipunlanli (普惠南里) and Cuiwei (翠微), with one room for 1,500 yuan, two rooms 2,000 yuan and three room 2,500 yuan.

Southern side of Gongzhufen: One room 1,000 yuan, three room 1,600 yuan

The center of the area is Liuliqiao (六里桥). Prices here are much lower, with one room only costing 1,000 yuan, two rooms 1,300 yuan and three room 1,600 yuan. If the location is near Maliandao (马连道) and Fengzhejie (丰泽街), the price can be as low as 800 yuan for one room and 1,300 yuan for three rooms.

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with?

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Sports & Activities

Beach Party In Qingdao Includes: round trip from Beijing to Qingdao, 2 nights accommodation in the Gloria Inn, breakfast both days, half day city tour, picnic lunch, beach party and transportation. You'd better sign up ASAP. When: Friday-Sunday, August 24-26. Cost: 2200 yuan / person. Tel: 13661044792; Email: Beer_fest_2001@hotmail.com



Chinese Kung Fu Challenge Almost 400 professional athletes from all over China will compete. Where: National Olympic Sports Center (NOSC), Chaoyang District. When: August 14, 7:30pm. Admission: 50, 80, 150, 280 yuan. Tel: 64912233.



Kerry Sports Center Classes & programs: aerobics, badminton, basketball, body building, boxing, danceercise, golf, personal training, squash, swimming, table tennis, Tai Chi, tennis and Yoga. Trial Membership card: 800 yuan per card, 1400 yuan for 2 cards. Tel: 65618833 ext. 6465.

10th Anniversary Beijing Recreation Center For only 100 yuan, you can enjoy all the entertainment facilities including swimming, bowling, mini golf, billiards, shooting and sauna. Where: Beijing Recreation Center (北京康乐宫), Beisihuan Zhonglu (North Fourth Ring Road), Andingmenwai, bus 108, 328, 380 to Anhuiwabei (安惠北里). When: now-Aug 31. Tel: 64925233 ext. 4004/4005.

Performances

Crisis in Life A brand new musical drama about love affairs between several young artists. Where: People's Art Theatre (人艺剧场), 22 Wangfujing Dajie, bus 101, 103, 108 to National Art Museum. When: now-August 16. Ticket: 60 yuan. Tel: 65250123.



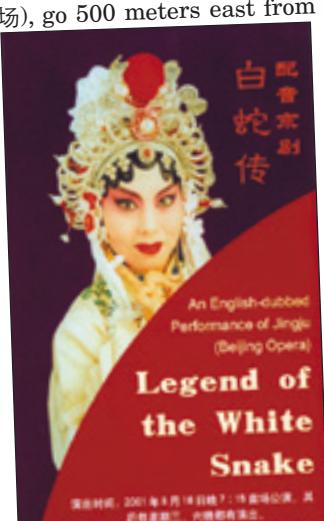
Kong Yiji Stage adaptation of one of literary giant Lu Xun's best-known novels. Where: Capital Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District, bus 103, 803, 109 to National Art Museum. When: Aug. 7-Sep. 9, 7:30pm. Tel: 65250996.



Ballet on Ice Russian artists perform excerpts from Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty on ice. Where: Beijing

Exhibition Center Theater (北展剧场), 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng District, bus 15, 27, 102, 111 to Zhanlanguan. When: Aug 17-19. Admission: 120-380 yuan. Tel: 68354455.

Legend of the Snake (白蛇传) The first English-dubbed performance of the famous Beijing Opera. Where: Beijing Traditional Opera Theater (北京市戏曲学校排演场), go 500 meters east from



Yuquanyingqiao (玉泉营桥), at the Fulu (辅路). When: August 18, 7:15pm. Admission: 600 yuan. (discounts for groups of more than 10). Tel: 67267809, 67562287.

Beijing Opera at Huiguang Huiguan Performed by Beijing Feng Lei Jingui Troupe. Where: 3 Hufangqiao Lu, Xuanwu District. When: August 12, 2:30pm; August 10-17, 7:30pm. Admission: 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 yuan box. Tel: 63518284, 63529134

French Movie: Beau Travail (军中禁恋) Director: Chaire Denis, 2000, 90 minutes. Where: Sculpting In Time, 45 Chengfujie, Haidian District. When: Tuesday, Thursday, August 14, 16, 7:30pm. Admission: free with one drink purchase. Tel: 62521746.

Sorry Baby (没完没了) Director: Feng Xiao Gang. Starring: Ge You, Wu Qianlian. Produced: 1999, 110 minutes. A rich businessman and his poor driver (Ge You) engage in a very funny feud that results in kidnapping, death threats and worse. Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, Intl. Conference Hall, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District (1 km east of Kempinski Hotel). When: Friday, August 17, 8pm. Admission: 50 yuan. Tel: 64615318/9.

Movies

French Movies by Eric Rohmer Claire's Knee (克莱尔之膝) (1970), 105 minutes. Love in the Afternoon (午后的爱情) (1972), 97 minutes. Where: Box Cafe, 5 Xiawangzhuang Xiaqu, opposite Tsinghua Tongfang Mansion, Haidian District. When: Saturday, August 11, 7pm. Admission: 5 yuan. Tel: 62791280.



Music

American Piano Princess Linda Gentille A former student of Liberace, Gentille has gained great a reputation and her tapes, CDs and VCDs are popular around the world. Where: National Cultural Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District. When: August 17, 18, 7:30pm. Admission: 50-260 yuan. Tel: 68485462.



Stairway to Music 2001-Music Camp

1) Summer Passion-Latin in Guitar Music Concert By Beijing Guitar Trio. Where: Beijing Concert Hall. When: Friday, August 10, 7:30pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan. Tel: 66057006.

2) Chinese Famous Songs Concert By Beijing Song & Dance Troupe. When: Friday, August 10, 7:30pm. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall. Admission: 10-60 yuan, 200 yuan box. Tel: 65598285.

3) Summer Lark-Hu Wanqi Young Girls' Change of Voice Concert Performance by 11-15 year old girls of the Sichuan Music Institute. Where: Beijing Concert Hall. When: Saturday, August 16, 7:45pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan. Tel: 68485462.

4) Recital by Prize-winning Tenors Cheng Zhi, Liu Bin, Dai Yuqiang, and others will sing popular songs from home & abroad. Where: Beijing Concert Hall. When: Tuesday, August 14, 7:30pm. Admission:

11, 7:30pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan.

5) Cello Child Prodigy

Luo Ting performs Saint Saens Cello Concerto, accompanied by the Central Opera Symphony Orchestra. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall. When: Saturday, August 11, 7:30pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan, 200 yuan box.

6) Recital by Prize-winning Tenors Cheng Zhi, Liu

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Hike through Wuling Mountains



by Jiang Zhong

The Wuling Mountains are renowned for the sea of clouds, the cherry blossoms in spring, the leaves in autumn and the snowscape in winter. In recent years, the region has also gained popularity as one of the best places for hiking in the vicinity of Beijing. All the major outdoor clubs in Beijing have frequented the Wuling Mountains, organizing expeditions to follow various hiking trails. The most popular of these is the one that winds

Photo by Yang Bo

through the Daliushuigou (大流水沟) Valley.

Walking 3.5 kilometers into the Daliushuigou valley, you will come to a small village named Wulingshandadui (雾灵山大队). Here another valley, known as Dazhuangmugou (大庄木沟) by the locals, branches off the main one. Walking along the small stream in this valley can be a marvelous hiking experience, particularly in midsummer, with the sunlight filtering down through the leafy trees. It's not all easy going, and at times, you might find it necessary to blaze a trail through the thick undergrowth. Sometimes, you might see swaths of cloud drifting lazily across the tops of the mountains ahead, at least, when your attention isn't entirely taken with negotiating the rugged path. The trail is only about 8 kilometers long, however, it is so steep in parts, even experienced backpackers will be hard pressed to make it to the end in under 4 hours.

The trail ends at the top of a mountain named Yuhuangding, the highest mountain within the region of the valley. Accommodation is available at the top, or if you really want to make the most of the sweet, fresh air, you could camp out.

How to get to the Daliushuigou Valley:

By bus: Take the bus heading for Miyun County at Dongzhimen (the ticket costs ten yuan and the trip takes one hour and forty minutes). At Miyun, change to the bus heading for Dongxiaobaiqi (only one bus a day, leaving at around 11 am, the ticket costs ten yuan). Get off at Heiguancun (Heiguan Village). Follow the road in the same direction as the bus for one kilometer, and you will see a beacon tower marking the entrance to the valley.

By car: Drive along Jingshun Road to Miyun, then change to the 101 Expressway. When you get to Dongshancun (东山村) Village, turn to Songcao Road. Drive to Caojialu, then eastward on a dirt road punctuated with deep potholes till you get to the valley. A jeep is strongly recommended.

Equipment and gear: Hiking boots, waterproof cover for backpack, electric torch, walking stick and thick clothing, at least two liters of water and some food.

Note: It can get quite chilly at night on the mountain, so bring along something that you can rug up in; the undergrowth is thick and prickly, so hiking barelegged is not advisable; don't stray too far from the stream, and keep an eye out for poisonous snakes.

Another hiking trail in the Wuling Mountain range in Hebei Province:

This trail is in the 'developed' tourist area of Wuling Mountain. A dirt road winds into the valley from the entrance, with precipitous and bizarrely shaped mountains standing on either side. As you proceed down the valley, you will follow a small, winding brook. Sometimes it appears to come to an abrupt end, however as you climb around a rock, you will see it running and singing again. The mountains on both sides stand almost vertically, as though trimmed by a sharp knife, and at times, only a narrow strip of sky can be seen from the bottom of the valley.

After hiking for two hours, you will hear a roaring sound, whose source is difficult to determine. After a sudden turning, the answer is given in a stunning way. A white waterfall cascades down the mountainside, like a curtain of white pearls. The name of the waterfall is Longtan. It has a fall of 55 meters and is shaped like a fan. After the waterfall, the mountain road becomes steeper and steeper, and you will begin trekking through virgin forest. Here and there, columns of sunlight penetrate the thick cover overhead and the fog sheets in the forest, creating a mysterious and tranquil scene. When you emerge from the forest, you can walk on to the top of the mountain.

For more information about this route, contact Sanfo Outdoors Club.

Address: No. 5, Building 4, Madiannancun, Beijing

Tel: 6201 5559, 62015550 **Fax:** 6203 5985 **Email:**

Zhangheng@sanfo.com.cn



By Thomas Kloubert

There are four Catholic churches in Beijing, which were built to the geographical (and the rather more complicated geometric) specifications of the old capital. They were arranged, as everything else, according to the four directions of the compass.

All the cathedrals were on several occasions rebuilt, usually following some or other turbulent period in history. The facades of the South Cathedral opposite the former Belgian legation and the West Cathedral on Xizhimenneidajie are easily spotted, but not so the Beitang (North) Cathedral. Like the Dongtang prior to its restoration, this one remains in the general obscurity of its surrounding alleyways. It is so well hidden in fact that one could be standing in front of its entrance and miss it all together.

Its sheet metal gates are typical of a factory warehouse, which incidentally was for a time during the 1960s and 70s, and so not something generally associated with religious structures - even a Jesuit one. The chances therefore of stumbling across it accidentally are slight. Ironically Beitang is the most famous of the four cathedrals in Beijing.

Beitang has the distinction of being the only one of the four cathedrals to have been moved from its original spot near the West wall of the Zhongnanhai. The original site was presented to Fathers Gerbillion and Bouvet of the French Society of Jesus by the Emperor Kangxi a year after he issued the edict of toleration of Christianity in 1692. This tolerance lasted about as long as Kangxi, within a year of his death his successor Yongzheng issued an edict banning all missionary activities outside the capital.

Throughout the reigns of Yongzheng and Qianlong the Beitang Cathedral was allowed to remain standing, be it in the hands of Jesuits or following the Rights Controversy (whether or not ancestral worship be allowed in Chinese converts) the Lazarists. Its first destruction occurred after it was closed by order of the Daoguang Emperor in 1827. The property was given to one of the Imperial princes who promptly tore it down to its foundations.

In 1860, after the Second Opium War a number of concessions were forced on the already weakened Manchu Government. Apart from the establishment of foreign legations all property belonging to the Catholic mission had to be handed back to the missionaries. As a result the Beitang was rebuilt in 1867 over the old stone steps of the former cathedral. The Beitang of today is however not of the 1867 vintage. Its proximity to the Zhongnanhai became a bit of a problem when the Empress Dowager Cixi decided to take up residence there. From the roof of the cathedral one apparently had a brilliant view of her chosen abode. Whether or not Holy Fathers congregated in the towers to peep at the "Old Buddha" is unfortunately not recorded. Suffice it to say that as usual, she got her way and an acceptable agreement was arrived at via a commander of the Bordered Blue Banner Corps, a Chinese priest, and the French legation. A suitable location was provided in Xishiku and the healthy sum of 350,000 taels given in compensation. The new cathedral was consecrated on July 9th, 1888. Two steles record the details of the transaction and its subsequent construction. They are still there flanking the cathedral, albeit reproductions, the original ones lie broken a few steps away.

That was one distinction, the second is that unlike the other three, the Beitang miraculously survived the siege that followed the Boxer uprising in 1900. The events that led up to the siege of the legation by Boxers and Imperial troops and the subsequent destruction of much of Beijing are amply described elsewhere. In simple terms it was an anti-foreign movement started in the countryside and quickly took the whole of North China by storm. Missionaries and in particular Chinese converts were seen as the root of all evil and as such faced the brunt of the hostility.

Accounts of the siege of the actual Legation Quarters are often much exaggerated. It was neither as fierce as most of the contemporary sources claim nor as heroic as some books make out. During the 55 days of the siege the Legation enjoyed three periods of truce from what was never a very determined effort on the Chinese side to take the quarters by force. Fruits, vegetables and even cartridges and rifles were available over the barricades during the frequent lulls. Not so at Beitang however where conditions seemed hopeless from the first day on. Inside its compounds were more than three thousand Chinese converts of which the majority were

women and children, about a dozen European and Chinese priests, twenty-two nuns, Bishops Favier and Jarlin, eleven Italian and forty French Marines commanded by a Lieutenant Paul Henri.

As they came under siege on June 22nd, Bishop Favier noted in his diary: "We are completely cut off and can no more communicate with the outside world. For arms we have 40 rifles of the marines, seven or eight of all kinds in the hands of the Chinese, some miserable sabers, and 500 lances or rather long sticks trimmed with metal. That is all. The perimeter to be defended is exactly 1,360 meters long."

From then on assaults took place almost daily. The cathedral and compound were subjected to heavy bombardment by no less than fourteen artillery pieces, some of which were modern Krupp guns firing shrapnel shells of the latest type. One of the most notable incidents that occurred during the siege was the capture of a muzzle-loading cannon that was throwing solid shot against the main gate. This antiquated piece turned out to have been cast under Jesuit direction in the 29th year of the Ming Emperor Wanli (1601). Apart from the constant barrage, providing food was to become an almost impossible task. Dangerous sorties were made to forage for

or capture supplies from the besieging Boxers. In the end there was practically no vegetation of any kind left inside the besieged compound. It was not until August 16th that they were finally relieved.

The Beitang today shows little of the scars of that bloody conflict, one can hardly imagine a more peaceful place in the middle of Beijing. The compound is but a fraction of what it was in 1900 and barely encloses the courtyard and cathedral. The gardens and courts that once surrounded the cathedral are now occupied by a middle school and an entertainment facility. Of the park and the cemetery where Lt. Henri and the other casualties amongst the defenders were interred, there remains no trace. The facade is a curious mixture of Chinese architecture and pseudo Gothic. Instead of gargoyles, Chinese dragons occupy the eaves. The inside of the cathedral itself is very spartan, plywood confessionals and plaster of Paris saints. Most are modern reproductions, but here and there, some of the old stained glass can still be found - one pane on the right side about a third of the way down still proclaims its origin:

"LATTEUX - BAZIN, Mesnil St. Firminoise, France: 1901".

Beijing Nantang (Immaculate Conception) 141 Qianmen Xidajie, Xuanwumennei, Beijing, 100031

Tel: 6603 7139

Beijing Dongtang (St. Joseph) 74 Wangfujing **Tel:** 6524 0634

Beijing Xitang 130 Xizhimenneidajie

Beijing Beitang (St. Xavier) 33 Xishiku, Beijing 100034 **Tel:** 6617 5198

Holy Mass daily at: 6:00am Latin; 6:30am Chinese; 7:00am Chinese

Sunday Mass at: 6:00am Latin; 7:00am Chinese; 8:00am Chinese; 8:00pm Chinese

North



Cathedral



A prayer of Chinese and Western architecture

Photo by Kerstin Gesell